ELEPHANTS' LIVES CUT SHORT IN ZOO, PG 20

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Movies pg 38

Brad Pitt nabs Golden Globe nod

Teen girl found slain

Two face murder charges after police find 13-year-old's body in Mississauga home

Alexandra Firgin-Hewie had been warned about hanging out with the older neighbourhood girl in south end Mississauga.

So it was a double-shock yesterday when friends learned the 13-year-old had been slain and her new, 19-year-old pal was charged with first-degree murder in her death. A 25-year-old man faces the same charge in the case, Peel's record 27th homicide this year.

"Oh, no, not Alexandra," said neighbour Patricia Rodriguez after hearing from reporters that the teen had been found slain in a house nearby on Bonnymede Drive, near Southdown and Lakeshore roads.

"She's such a sweet girl, such a good girl," said Rodriguez, adding she'd cautioned the girl about associating with certain people in the neighbourhood. "Why Alexandra?"

That's the question Peel homicide detectives are trying to answer.

Alexandra, an elementary school student who lived with her father in a basement apartment near where her body was found, had been a friend of the two accused for a few months. Neighbours said they don't know why she would have been in the house, where the accused man lived with his mother.

"She was never in trouble ... She was very quiet, very lovely."
Patricia Rodriguez, neighbour

Police were called to the semi-detached home about 1:20 a.m. Thursday, said Const. J.P. Valade. Officers found Alexandra's body inside.

Later, police went to the Carrera Lane home of Michelle Liard, 19, after a neighbour across the street reported a man had been skulking in his backyard at about 6:30 a.m.

Liard was arrested at her home. Rafael LaSota, 25, was found asleep on the ground beside a barn in nearby Bradley Park.

Both LaSota and Liard were remanded in custody. Liard is to appear in Brampton court again next Tuesday. LaSota, who had a large cut on his forehead, was ordered to appear next Thursday by video link.

Neighbours said police had been called to the homicide scene on at least two occasions over the past month. A neighbour said she alerted police four weeks ago of drug use; another neighbour said officers arrived two weeks ago after a break-in.

Police sealed off the house as detectives waited to obtain a warrant to gather evidence. An officer guarded evidence protected by a yellow tarpaulin beside a shed in the backyard.

"It's extraordinarily tragic for a young girl to be murdered," Valade said. "We will continue to investigate this very, very aggressively.

Rodriguez wiped away tears as she talked of the slain teen.

"She's a sweet girl. She was never in trouble," she said. "She's so sweet. She was very quiet, very lovely."

Rodriguez said Alexandra and her father moved to the neighbourhood in early summer, but said he was already trying to move away from the area because he didn't want to raise her in such a troubled place.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

HANDOUT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Alexandra Firgin-Hewie, 13, of Mississauga is pictured in this handout photo. The teen's friend, a 19-year-old woman, and a man, 25, are charged with first-degree murder.

Organized crime groups have staff at airport: Study

PEARSON There are 38 organized crime groups with members or associates working at Pearson International Airport, according to an RCMP study of smuggling at Canadian airports.

The groups smuggle humans, cocaine, marijuana and a stimulant called "khat" that predates the use of coffee, but is relatively new on Canadian streets, according to the RCMP study, called Project Spawn.

"The majority (38) of the organized crime groups identified in this assessment had established links to Canada's three largest airports — Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver," the report states.

The study examined criminal cases between January 2005 and August 2007 in the airports of Toronto, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Montreal (Trudeau International Airport) and Halifax.

It noted that 1,326 people were involved in organized criminal activity at the airports, including 298 airport employees.

"The facilities are susceptible to criminal exploitation and infiltration, particularly at the major international airports that receive frequent flights from either source countries or transit countries for various types of contraband," the report states.

Baggage handlers, ramp attendants, food caterers and refuellers were among the groups that included organized crime members or associates, the report said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Preventable hospital death rates decline in GTA

PATIENTS The three Ontario hospitals with the highest rates of patient deaths last year have found ways to lower the number of preventable deaths at their institutions, according to a report released yesterday.

The Humber River Regional Hospital and The Scarborough Hospital — the hospitals with the highest death rates in the GTA in 2006-07 — have brought their 2007-08 rates closer to the national average. Kitchener's Grand River Hospital, ranked worst in Canada last year, also lowered its death rate.

But other hospitals across the GTA did not make such improvements. Markham Stouffville Hospital posted the worst death rate in the country with a figure of 129, meaning its in-hospital death rate was 29 points above the national average of 100. Lakeridge Health, which includes four sites in Durham, had a rate of 114 — up nine points over last year and 19 points over 2005-06.

Yesterday, for only the second time, the Canadian Institute for Health Information, or CIHI, released mortality rates for 76 large Canadian acute care hospitals in every province except Quebec.

Canada started to publicly report its in-hospital death rates last year.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Releasing rates prompts better care?

- Health-care experts say releasing hospital death rates to the public forces administrators to examine their in-house practices and to find ways to fix them, which ultimately improve patient care. The scores also provide patients with information about potential risks at their local hospitals.

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Dad's book for Harbridge

Canada pg 10

PM rushes to fill Senate

Music pg 52

Alternative holiday tunes

Celebrity Buzz pg 60

Elder Simpson wants a ring

Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Toronto 1 Concorde Gate, Suite 703, Toronto, Ontario M3C 3N6. Publisher: Bill McDonald

Third person charged with robbery of teen

Police have charged a third person with the robbery of a teen near Pape Avenue and O'Connor Drive Monday. Justin Luis Raposo, 23, of Toronto, was charged with robbery. Patrick Benoit, 22, of Toronto, and a girl, 16, are also charged with robbery. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Local

Mail in Mississauga delayed

While Canada Post tries to get a provincewide court injunction against a group of striking postal support staff, the strikers continue to picket the Mississauga delivery centre. Mississauga residents may experience a "slight delay" in mail delivery, due to a strike by a group of Public Service Alliance of Canada workers, said a Canada Post spokesperson John Caines.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Monday's Metro

Going Green

David Suzuki writes about the frightening fact of Alberta's tar sands.

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Read Bank of Canada issues grim economic report at **metronews.ca/canada**

Read Montrealers loot contents of failed restaurant left on sidewalk at **metronews.ca/canada**

Read Guest list for Obama inauguration gala revealed at **metronews.ca/world**

Read Harper to appoint reform-minded senators before Christmas at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Lottery results were not available at press time.

News in brief

CONTRACT The Ontario Power Authority announced yesterday that it will sign a 20-year contract with York Energy Centre LP to design, build and operate a 393-megawatt electricity generating station in King Township. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

More tracks on agenda

GO seeks to improve service

GO Transit could begin buying up train tracks as early as next year as part of a strategy to improve reliability and attract a greater share of the commuter population.

GO now owns only portions of its rail system: A segment around Union Station; the eastern portion of the Lakeshore route; and parts of the Barrie and Stouffville lines.

Most other tracks, including GO's busiest on Lakeshore, are owned and operated by CN and CP, principally as freight corridors. Their aging infrastructure, including signals, has long been blamed for many GO train delays.

"We want to take those corridors and move them up to a higher level of service. The only way you can do that is to manage your own infrastructure," GO chief executive officer Gary McNeil told the Toronto Star.

He said the railways are receptive to a deal "as long as they can get certain guarantees (and) we're willing to pay a price."

GO has already added a vice-president of customer service, with the objective of more than doubling its 170,000 daily ridership by 2020.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Strategic plan

- On-time, friendly service is the cornerstone of a new strategic plan GO's board is expected to approve today. It sets out to align GO's operational vision with the Metrolinx Regional Transportation Plan and the province's MoveOntario 2020 funding outline.

Doctor's certificate revoked after sex abuse charges

CHARGES A Toronto doctor has had his certificate of registration revoked — effective immediately — by the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons after it found he sexually abused four female patients and behaved in a "disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional" way.

Dr. Jacobo Joffe, a 59-year-old general surgeon, pleaded no contest to the charges yesterday through his lawyer. He did not appear at the hearing.

Joffe, who studied medicine in Mexico and did his residency at McGill University, was on staff at a Toronto hospital where he specialized in gastric bypass and lap-band surgery to treat obesity.

A five-person College disciplinary panel was told yesterday that Joffe had sex with four patients, two of them in 2003 after they had come to him for gastric surgery.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Honour **Moses Znaimer Way**

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Mayor David Miller, left, and Moses Znaimer unveil Moses Znaimer Way yesterday. Znaimer was the co-founder and former head of Citytv, the first independent television station in Toronto. Znaimer founded a number of television channels and programs, including MuchMusic, CablePulse 24, Star!, Bravo!, Space and the Fashion Television Channel.

Hells Angel wanted to kill rival, court hears

A Hells Angel who was secretly working as a police agent was bent on murdering a rival biker, Whitby Court heard yesterday.

"He'll be nothing," Steven Gault told Remond (Ray) Akleh of the Hells Angels elite Nomads chapter on Sept. 27, 2006, in a secretly recorded conversation. "He'll become a nothing ... He'll be fertilizer."

The conversation was picked up by a police recording device carried by Gault.

However, Akleh told court that it was the police agent Gault who was pushing hard to murder Frank Lenti. Akleh was on his fourth day on the witness stand yesterday.

"Did the club want Mr. Lenti killed?" Akleh's lawyer, Glenn Orr, asked.

"No sir," Akleh replied. "From what I understood, no. And I did not want Frank Lenti killed."

Court has heard that Gault collected more than $1 million from police for his role in an 18-month operation that ended in September 2006.

The alleged gangland murder plot against Lenti was never carried out.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Charges

- Akleh, 46, and Oshawa Hells Angels president Mark Cephes Stephenson, 45, each face charges of conspiracy to commit murder and counselling to commit murder for allegedly recruiting Gault to murder Frank (Cisco) Lenti of the Bandidos club in the summer of 2006.

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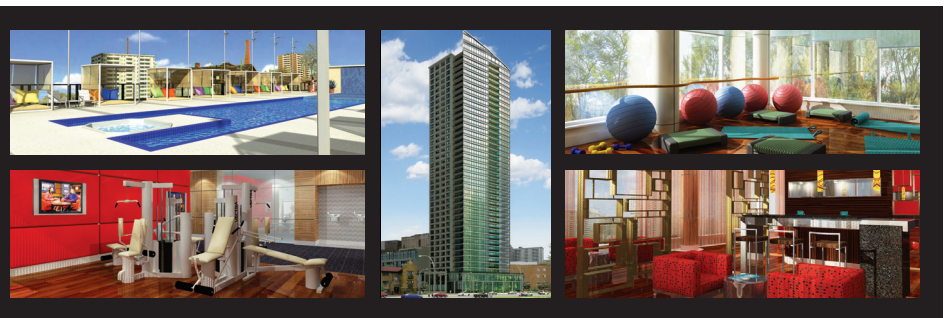

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Charges laid in mall stabbing

Police have laid charges after a man was stabbed in the face and throat during fight at Cedarbrae Mall Wednesday. Jamaal Williams, 21, of Toronto, is charged with assault with a weapon and aggravated assault. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Chapel up for $1M reno

City hall's wedding venue to add touch of style

Ravi Bissember and Karen Latchana just wanted something simple.

And that's what they got yesterday, when they tied the knot at city hall's third-floor wedding chamber, like many of the 3,000 couples who do so each year.

Latchana, 24, changed into her floor-length purple dress in a tiny, closet-like room. Bissember, 29, waited with his aunt Bibi Beepat for the service to begin.

For a place designed for happy nuptials, it's a little plain. A few potted plants, some red and white carnations, and a CD player for wedding music. The carpet looks worn.

But thanks to a city council decision this week, the wedding chambers are about to undergo a $1 million renovation over the next two years. Other office space will be taken over to create two chapels, one of which could be used for receptions, and give access to a planned rooftop garden.

"We can double the capacity. We'll have two functioning chapels that would allow us to run two ceremonies at the same time," said Richard Coveduck, director of design, construction and asset preservation in facilities and real estate. "Perhaps there'll be the opportunity for folks to walk out there into a green setting and take photographs. We're trying to deliver more."

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ravi Bissember and Karen Latchana get married in a small ceremony at the city hall chapel as Bissember's aunt Bibi Beepat looks on. The city is planning a$1 million makeover for the wedding chamber.

"Perhaps there'll be the opportunity for folks to walk out there into a green setting and take photographs. We're trying to deliver more."
Richard Coveduck

The current chambers are showing their age, with little done to refurbish them in about 15 years, he said. "People are getting married. It's the most important day of their lives. It's a celebratory event and we need to have a better venue."

Some of the $1 million budget will be spent to relocate staff on that floor elsewhere at city hall.

Couples pay $187 for the ceremony, which includes the officiant's fees. Code said people who choose to marry there "don't come with a lot of expectations esthetically."

As part of the capital budget, council also approved an additional $250,000 over two years to refurbish wedding chapels at four other civic centres. Plans include new chairs and curtains, a sound system and podiums, and fresh paint.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It's a rough ride for taxi drivers

Kuga Thambiraja measures his life by the meter.

The Toronto taxi driver has spent the last seven years moving people, all the while keeping an eye on the red numbers ticking away on his dashboard.

With the economy in recession, Thambiraja says the fares clocked by those little red numbers are barely enough to support his wife, an office worker, and teenage son and daughter.

The perpetual walk-the-line nature of Toronto's taxi industry is what drives cabbies to refuse short fares — a seemingly counterintuitive practice that infuriates spurned passengers. That and other misdeeds, including aggressively soliciting and operating without a licence, made headlines last week when the city issued 147 tickets to cabbies at Union Station.

"Right now, it's really tough to make a living. Really tough," says Thambiraja, turning his rented but spotless 2004 Ford Taurus Diamond cab east onto Lake Shore Boulevard on a sleet-drenched night.

The meter reads $4.00, known in taxi lexicon as "the drop," the initial fare charged as soon as the customer gets in. It is quick money, but it's not enough to cover costs. On a good night, usually a Friday or Saturday, Thambiraja will net between $250 and $300. On abysmal nights, he'll head home with as little as $80 after a 12-hour shift. He needs to clear $700 a week to cover his household bills. Lately, he has been maxing out between $500 and $600.

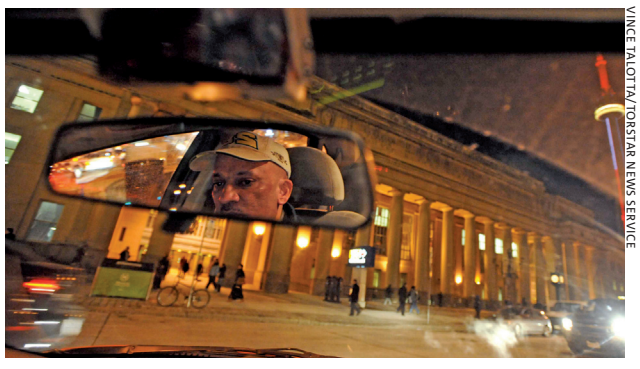
"Cab drivers never calculate their earnings by day because if you did that, you'd be crying."
Kuga Thambiraja

"Cab drivers never calculate their earnings by day because if you did that, you'd be crying," says Thambiraja, a thin man with a moustache and white ball cap. "You have to look at what you make by week because a couple of good nights can make up for the bad ones."

Some nights Thambiraja will wait hours at his usual spot in front of the Queens Quay Radisson just for one or two customers. Deciding whether to cruise for business involves a trade-off. It's a dilemma every cab driver faces, he says, which helps explain the long lines of unhappy passengers at Union Station.

The meter hits $22.25 and Thambiraja pulls the cab to a stop. With a courteous wave, he glides off into the sub-zero darkness, worrying as he does every night, whether tonight's fares will see him and his family through the next week.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kuga Thambiraja knows how hard it is to make a living as a cab driver in this city.

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Prank calls lead to charges
A woman faces charges after prank calls were made asking parents to attend a meeting in response to allegations their kids had been sexually assaulted. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

ANDREW WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A young girl looks around at a meeting held last night in the library of Sheppard Public School. The meeting was organized to gauge interest into the first Africentric school in Toronto.

Turnout bodes well for school

Meeting discusses Africentric program

More than 100 people turned out last night to learn about Toronto's planned Africentric alternative school, including prospective teachers, parents and community members.

The meeting was the third held by the Toronto District School Board in recent weeks to explain the program from kindergarten to Grade 5, to be located within Sheppard Public School on Sheppard Avenue, just west of Keele Street

"I'm here to learn about the school for family members and to help spread the word," said community organizer Chakanda Gondwe. "Black history is so much more than just the civil rights movement — black people's history goes back thousands of years."

Two earlier meetings held in Scarborough and Rexdale had drawn small turnouts, and some had said the board is not publicizing the new program enough. But Lloyd McKell, the board's executive officer of student equity, said they were "very happy with the turnout tonight."

The board approved the controversial pilot project last spring, and has said it wants at least two classes of about 20 students each in two consecutive grades as a starting point.

The school will be open to children of all races and will offer lesson plans that are less centred on Europe than traditional curriculum, and more global in the material it covers, with a particular focus on African-Canadian history and achievement.

The principal hired in January will attempt to hire a number of black teachers to serve as role models, something advocates say could help engage students who can feel forgotten in mainstream schools.

The school is meant to be a sort of test lab for more inclusive curriculum and staffing, and is one of several ways Canada's largest school board is trying to tackle a 40 per cent dropout rate among black students.

Officials say lessons learned here can be used across other schools.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Head start

- The board is asking parents to enrol their children by Jan. 9 so it can get a head start on staffing, but will accept students throughout February.

Jackson flip-flops on booze bill

Vaughan Mayor Linda Jackson told a reporter this week there was no alcohol drunk when she charged thousands of dollars in meal claims to the taxpayer as she and her assistants dined in swank restaurants.

Receipts viewed by the Toronto Star yesterday showed that not only was alcohol involved in the meals, there was lots of it at business lunches and dinners with councillors, senior bureaucrats and others.

Now the embattled mayor has changed her tune, saying she was misquoted and that, in fact, expensing alcohol to the taxpayer is common practice in her municipality.

The receipts show that in one instance, a $100 bottle of Amarone Corte was included in a $345.50 meal ($415.50 after tip) for four at the Basilico Restaurant.

In another instance, a dinner meeting to discuss the mayor's gala, close to half the $310 dinner bill ($372 after tip) was for wine.

How much was really consumed during various lunches and dinners in 2007 won't be known because a recent audit of Jackson's expenses found that about $14,000 in claims that year were not backed up by detailed receipts when approved by city manager Michael DeAngelis.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Receipts

- The detailed receipts came to light yesterday after Jackson defended herself in an interview with Caroline Grech, a reporter with the Vaughan Citizen.

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Teen accused of aggravated assault
A 17-year-old Oakville boy faces charges of aggravated assault after another teen was hit with a baton or metal club. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ayden O'Neill-Main, Keli Francis-Ali and Kathleen O'Neill-Main serve up pizza for the weekly community dinner at the Mount Dennis United Church in Toronto. The initiative was set up with the help of United Way's Action for Neighbourhood Change.

Neighbourhood eats

Friday dinners bring community together

It's Friday and once again the basement of Mount Dennis United Church is a beehive of activity.

In the kitchen, there's an assembly line of pizzas being prepared by a crew of special chefs — 8- to 12-year-old kids from the neighbourhood.

"I helped grate the cheese, cut the apple pies and serve, said Felicia Francis, 11, who says she looks forward to the Friday night dinners.

For her sister Halema, 12, the communal meals are the highlight of the week. "I like them because I get to learn to cook different foods and learn about other people," she said.

> **"I get to ... learn about other people."**
> Halema Francis

Friday night dinners in Mount Dennis have become a tradition in the west end neighbourhood where Weston Rd. meets Eglinton Ave. W.

But the evening is about more than culinary arts and eating. The Mount Dennis kitchen enables neighbours to connect with one another like members of an extended family. It happens effortlessly when they break bread, said Francis.

Action for Neighbourhood Change, a resident lead community revitalization initiative now operating in Toronto's 13 inner city suburbs including Mount Dennis, helped plant the seed for the community initiative.

The ANC is at the core of the United Way's Neighbourhood Strategy working to bring in services lacking in inner city suburbs.

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Fine balance between climate, economy: Prentice

There's a delicate balance between meeting climate change objectives and dealing with the international financial crisis, Environment Minister Jim Prentice said yesterday from Poland where he is attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Work program under scrutiny

The layoffs of 70 foreign labourers at an Ontario mushroom farm has renewed calls to reform Canada's temporary foreign worker program. The Mexican and Jamaican workers at Rol-Land Farms, near Guelph, were let go last week with little notice, said the United Food and Commercial Workers union and other advocacy groups.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bill aimed at violence

Schools could be forced to report serious incidents

It could soon become mandatory for teachers and school staff to report serious incidents like assaults to principals if a proposed government bill comes to pass in the spring.

Education Minister Kathleen Wynne said yesterday she will introduce the proposed legislation in the next session of the legislature to toughen reporting standards and make curriculum changes to the way students are taught about gender-based violence, sexuality, homophobia and sexually-transmitted diseases.

> **"We live in a world where these issues need to be dealt with."**
> Education Minister Kathleen Wynne

"We can't assume that people have the same level of comfort or knowledge about these issues," Wynne said.

"We live in a world where these issues need to be dealt with, and we are trying to create a more supportive and safer environment for kids in a world that still hasn't dealt with these issues."

The move comes on the last day of the legislature's fall session and is in response to a government-commissioned report that calls for action to prevent violence and harassment among students.

While schools already have guidelines about reporting such incidents, yesterday's report by the Safe Schools Action Team found those regulations aren't always followed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gates praises Canadian Afghan mission

U.S. Secretary of Defence Robert Gates has hinted he would like to see Canada extend its mission in Afghanistan beyond the scheduled 2011 departure date.

Gates told reporters no country has worked harder than Canada and he would be disappointed to see Canadians leave.

"The countries that have partnered here ... have made an extraordinary commitment and proportionately none has worked harder or sacrificed more than the Canadians," Gates said when asked whether he would like to see Canada extend its mission.

"They have been outstanding partners for us. And all I can tell you, as has been the case for a very long time: The longer we can have Canadian soldiers as our partners the better it is," he said against a backdrop of heavily armed U.S. military vehicles.

SCOTT OLSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Secretary of Defence Robert Gates holds a news conference yesterday at Kandahar Air Field in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Brig.-Gen. Denis Thompson, commander of Canada's Task Force Kandahar, said it's obvious that work remains to be done in Afghanistan beyond 2011, but that is something the Canadian Forces have no say over.

"From Canada's perspective that's a policy decision," said Thompson, who had lunch with Gates. "Those decisions are made in Ottawa and not in the field.

"But, clearly, the international community will be engaged here for many, many, many years."

In Ottawa, Defence Minister Peter MacKay told CBC the government will respect the parliamentary mandate, "which has us in Afghanistan until 2011 — July of that year, to be specific — and that's it. That's the be all and end all."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PM plans to pad Senate with Tories

Prime Minister Stephen Harper will name 18 new senators before Christmas, likely in one fell swoop, in a move his office says will bolster the chances of eventual Senate reform but Opposition critics called it a hyper-partisan power grab.

> **"It's outrageous. I can't believe that the prime minister is just literally giving Canadians the finger."**
> David Christopherson, NDP critic

NDP democratic reform critic David Christopherson, whose party advocates abolishing the Senate, was angry over both Harper's change of position and his timing.

"It's outrageous," he said. "I can't believe that the prime minister is just literally giving Canadians the finger.

"This is about a blatant power move by someone who does not have the legitimacy of the Canadian people in terms of the votes he got, nor does he have the confidence of the House," he added. "Technically and legally he can do this, but I don't believe that Canadians are going to sit back and say that's the kind of prime minister that I want dealing with our priorities."

A senior government official, briefing reporters on background, said "part of the reason" for rushing to name senate appointments now "is clearly related to the coalition," which the Conservative government believes would put its own partisans into the current 18 vacancies.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Senate appointments may open legislature seat for Tory

RIDING The prime minister's plan to fill 18 Senate vacancies could be the helping hand embattled Progressive Conservative Leader John Tory needs to find a long-sought seat in the Ontario legislature.

With the clock ticking down to Tory's self-imposed Dec. 31 deadline to find a vacant riding to contest in a byelection, attention is centred on the possibility a Conservative MPP could be offered a Senate seat by Stephen Harper.

Tory called that "speculative" yesterday and said he hadn't been asked to submit any possible names.

"It's a hypothetical question," he told reporters.

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Firecrackers spark police search at Montreal university

Firecrackers, not gunshots, sparked a massive floor-by-floor search by shotgun-toting police inside a Montreal university yesterday as officers hunted for a man believed to be armed. Police Cmdr. Alain Simoneau said investigators found no evidence that a gun had been discharged inside the building. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PM, Ignatieff not expected to agree on key issues

POLITICS Despite newly minted Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff's agreement to sit down and talk with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, there is no sign the two men will be able to put aside their bitter divisions and forge a more co-operative relationship.

Aides to the party leaders were unable yesterday to provide any idea when Harper and Ignatieff might follow through with their pledges to meet and discuss what needs to be done to resuscitate the economy.

And the Prime Minister's unexpected decision to quickly stack the Senate with Conservatives fuelled new anger and resentment among Liberals.

On Wednesday night, Harper moved quickly to call Ignatieff in response to the Toronto MP's sudden ascendancy to the top job in the Liberal party.

"He wanted to offer his congratulations and also open the door to a meeting with Mr. Ignatieff," a Harper spokesperson, who briefed the media on condition of anonymity, explained yesterday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Crash aftermath **Difficult to believe in Christmas**

CHARLES-ANTOINE GAGNON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Almost a year after an accident that claimed the lives of seven members of a New Brunswick high school basketball team and the wife of its coach, one mother says her grief doesn't allow her to believe in Christmas anymore. Ana Acevedo and Isabelle Hains, whose sons were killed in the crash, held a news conference in Fredericton yesterday, demanding the provincial government order a coroner's inquest into the crash.

Mulroney submits Schreiber arguments

INQUIRY Former prime minister Brian Mulroney has submitted his initial arguments to a judicial inquiry into his financial relations with lobbyist Karlheinz Schreiber.

Mulroney's lawyer filed a letter dated Dec. 5 to the inquiry under Justice Jeffrey Oliphant arguing 20-year-old federal conflict of interest rules must apply to the case, not the current regime of conflict rules that have been amended at least twice since the 1980s.

Lawyer Guy Pratte emphasized that the inquiry's terms of reference precluded Oliphant from "expressing any conclusion or recommendation regarding the civil or criminal liability of any person."

Schreiber, who faces extradition back to his native Germany, has also filed his initial submission.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Small claims limit jumps

Changes to court announced

Small Claims Court — where people sue over everything from defective water heaters to unpaid car repair bills — is about to get bigger, with richer claims, more cases and more lawyers.

Attorney General Chris Bentley announced yesterday the province's small claims monetary limit will jump to $25,000 from $10,000, effective Jan. 1, 2010.

The change will improve access to justice by allowing ordinary citizens as well as businesses to resolve legal disputes quickly and less expensively, Bentley said.

It and several other reforms announced yesterday were cheered by judges, lawyers and litigants.

"It's a good move all around," said Derek Nyilas, a Toronto real estate agent who went to court after his lung was accidentally punctured during a treatment for neck pain.

Nyilas would have liked to pursue his medical malpractice claim in Small Claims Court, but was deterred by its $10,000 limit.

As part of a series on access to justice last year, the Toronto Star reported that an average three-day trial in Ontario's Superior Court of Justice was likely to cost litigants $60,000 — more than a year's income for most families.

Nyilas filed a $50,000 lawsuit in Superior Court. He lost and was ordered to pay $2,500 of his opponent's costs. In a typical case, those costs can run to tens of thousands of dollars.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Justice system

- Raising the limit was one of 81 recommendations made last year by former Associate Chief Justice Coulter Osborne, who was asked by the province to find ways to fix a civil justice system that has priced itself out of the reach of many.

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Ski runs **In peak form**

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ski runs on Blackcomb mountain can be seen behind Whister Blackcombs new Peak to Peak gondola during a media preview day yesterday in B.C. The gondola, which links the tops of Blackcomb and Whistler mountains, officially opens today.

Alberta at crossroads

Needs new energy strategy, Stelmach says

Alberta has unveiled a new energy strategy that includes a renewable fuel standard for gasoline and diesel and more support for the province's ailing industrial heartland.

"Energy development ... must evolve if it is to continue to deliver these results in the future." Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach

"Energy development remains the economic engine of this province and of this country," said Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach. "But this sector, like so many others, must evolve if it is to continue to deliver these results in the future.''

Energy Minister Mel Knight said the goal of the strategy is to ensure clean energy production, wise energy use and sustained prosperity. Under the plan, gasoline would have to contain five per cent ethanol by 2010 and diesel would contain two per cent renewable fuel.

"This is ensuring that Alberta keeps pace with Saskatchewan and other provinces that have put in a fuel standard," Stelmach said.

The province has allocated a total of $239 million to support expanded production and marketing of bioenergy and biofuels, which are made from corn and other grains and other plant life.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Conservatives issue tax announcement

FINANCE The Conservative minority government is letting people take advantage of some tax measures in its fall economic statement, despite the fact the Tory fiscal plan hasn't been passed by Parliament.

The Conservatives' economic update was the cause of loud opposition condemnation that sparked the political crisis that nearly cost Prime Minister Stephen Harper his job. The federal government issued a new release last night announcing that Canadians can take advantage of a proposal to reduce the minimum withdrawal from their registered retirement income funds by 25 per cent for 2008.

"In light of prorogation of Parliament, many seniors and financial institutions are seeking confirmation that they can act upon the government's proposal," said the release, issued by National Revenue Minister Jean-Pierre Blackburn.

The Canada Revenue Agency has advised financial institutions that it can administer the proposed change before the law is passed. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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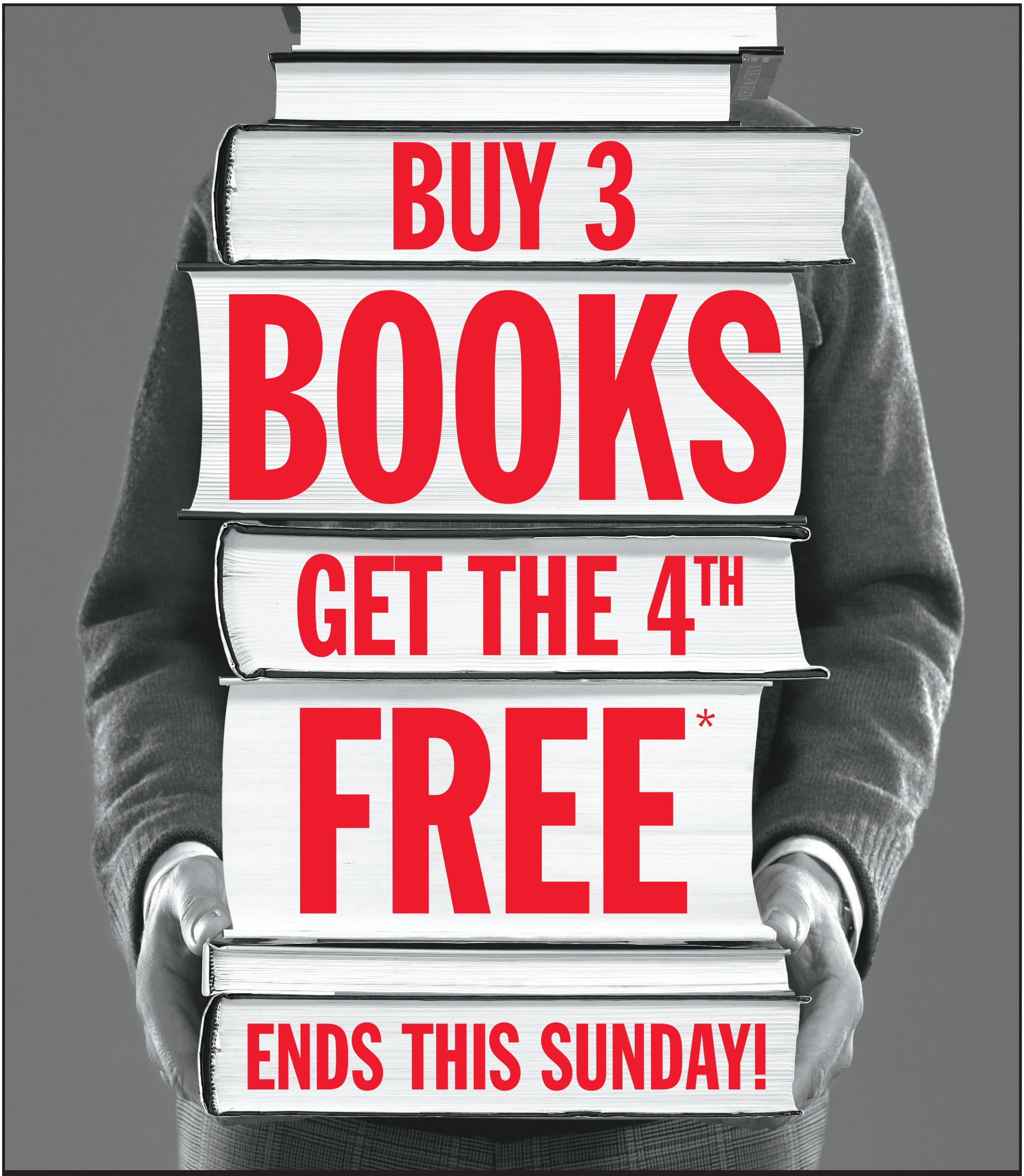

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New Brunswick nurses poised to go on strike

New Brunswick nurses have voted 94 per cent in favour of strike action. They could be off the job Dec. 19 in their very first strike aimed at getting the government to address working conditions by improving compensation for shifts and weekends. THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. lab to test for animal diseases

The doors open early next year on a new lab that can test for diseases such as avian flu, mad cow disease and West Nile virus.

Agriculture Minister Stan Hagen said yesterday it's the only such facility in Canada that's associated with a provincial veterinary lab to diagnose diseases that can transfer from animals to humans.

Hagen said the lab "ensures we are fully prepared to identify and respond to incidents of animal disease faster and more efficiently."

The lab's advanced testing means fewer samples will need to be sent to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's lab in Winnipeg, he said.

The lab, which will open early in the new year, is an addition to the existing Animal Health Centre in Abbotsford, B.C., the hub of the Fraser Valley agricultural area. The area was the hardest hit in Canada when fears of a human avian flu outbreak were at their peak years ago.

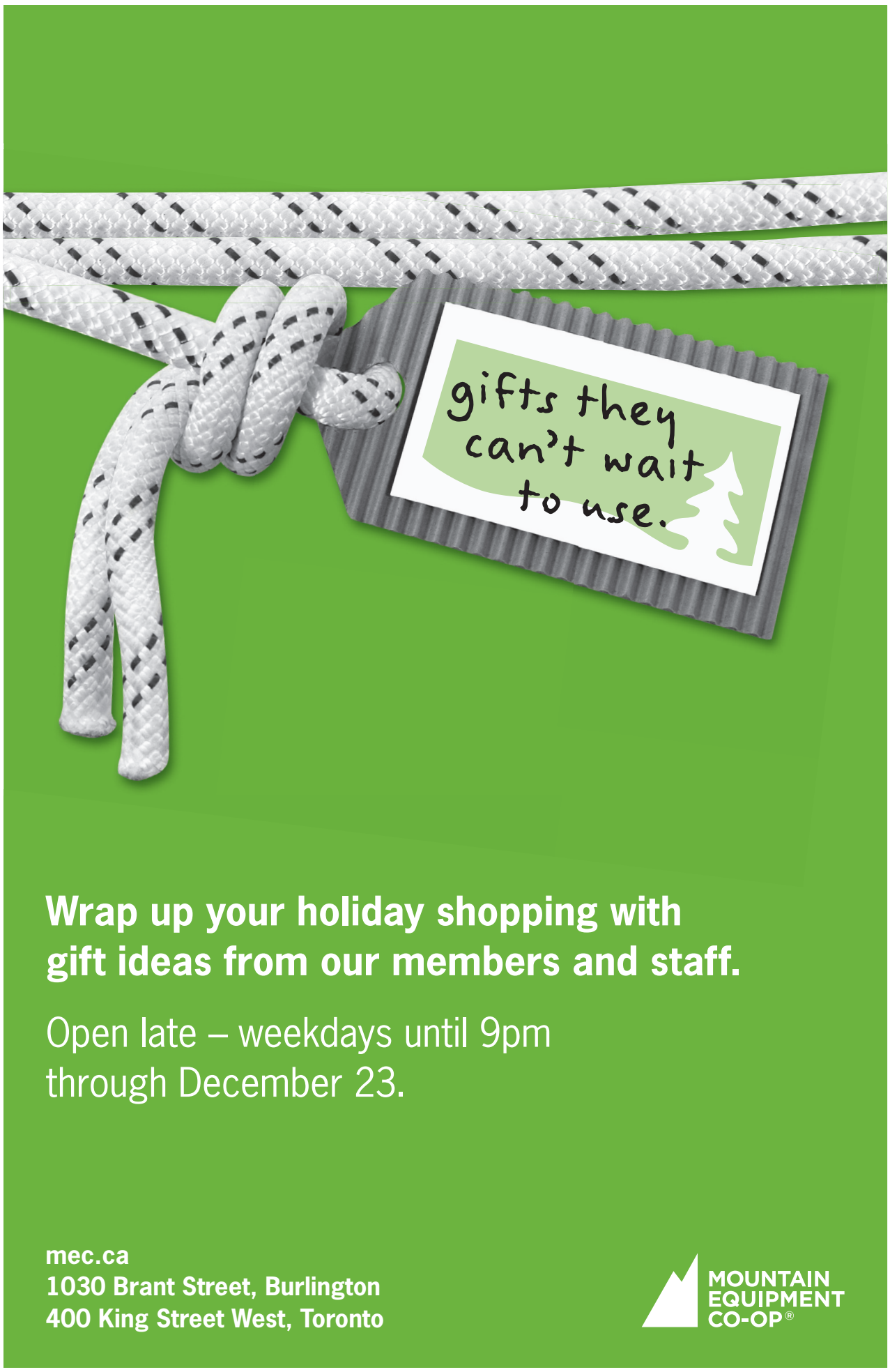
Two people were infected in a 2004 bird flu outbreak at Fraser Valley poultry farms. They suffered only mild flu-like symptoms but hundreds of thousands of birds were culled and the province's $350-million-a-year industry was devastated. Up to 1,700 jobs were lost.

Thousands more birds were culled during a 2005 avian flu outbreak.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

More protection

- The $14-million testing facility will provide protection for lab workers from diseases that may infect people as well as animals. It will feature unbreakable glass to prevent disease-causing agents from being reintroduced into the environment.



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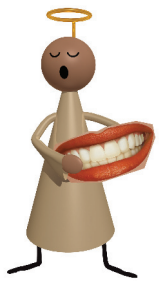

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U.S. road deaths down almost 10 per cent this year

U.S safety officials say American auto fatalities through October have dropped almost 10 per cent in 2008 compared with last year, from 34,502 to 31,110. If the trend holds up for the last two months of the year, U.S. highway deaths could reach their lowest level since Lyndon Johnson was in the White House. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

White House to blame for abuse

A Senate report says abuse of detainees in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere should be blamed on the Bush administration and not on U.S. guards and interrogators. The report from the Senate armed services committee is the result of a two-year investigation. It links legal memos on torture and on changes to interrogation rules with the abuse that was photographed at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq four years ago. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tentative deal reached on $14B auto bailout

A bipartisan group of senators reached tentative agreement last night on an emergency $14-billion US bailout for U.S. automakers, the Senate's top Democrat said.

Majority Leader Harry Reid said the lead Republican architect of the deal was briefing colleagues on the compromise, and Democrats were prepared to move forward on it quickly.

"We're ready to go," said Reid.

His announcement came after hours of marathon talks at the Capitol between labour, lawmakers and the auto industry to salvage the Big Three rescue.

The talks centred on possible wage and benefit concessions from the United Auto Workers union as well as large-scale debt restructuring by General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler LLC.

Job losses

• The issue of bailing out the Big Three automakers gained urgency last week when the government reported the economy had lost more than a half-million jobs in November, the most in any month for more than 30 years.

The details of the agreement weren't immediately known, and it was not clear whether Republicans senators would go along.

The latest round of bargaining unfolded after Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky joined other GOP lawmakers in announcing his opposition to a White House-backed rescue bill that was approved by the House on Wednesday.

He called for an alternative that would reduce the wages and benefits of the U.S. automakers to bring them in line with those paid by Japanese carmakers Nissan, Toyota and Honda in the United States.

Leaders stressed that the current deal wasn't final.

"All issues are still on the table," said Democratic Senator Dick Durbin as he emerged from the talks.

But it was clear lawmakers had made substantial progress toward getting the auto industry aid back on track, and members of both parties were in search of an accord.

"We've got some issues still to resolve, but we all want to resolve them," said Republican Senator Bob Corker. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Greece **Six straight days of chaos**

BELA SZANDELSZKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A youth kicks a riot police officer during clashes on the sidelines of a demonstration in central Athens yesterday. Some 2,000 people took part in the protest against the police killing of a teenager last week, which has sparked six days of Greece's worst rioting in decades.

Blagojevich threatened with removal

CORRUPTION Illinois' attorney general yesterday threatened to have embattled Gov. Rod Blagojevich removed by the state Supreme Court if he doesn't resign soon or face impeachment by the legislature.

Hours later, Blagojevich went to work in his Chicago office without commenting, giving no sign of plans to heed calls for his resignation.

Blagojevich was arrested Tuesday on charges that he put president-elect Barack Obama's Senate seat up for sale.

Obama, meanwhile, told a news conference that neither he nor members of his staff were involved in making a deal with the disgraced governor. He called on Blagojevich to resign.

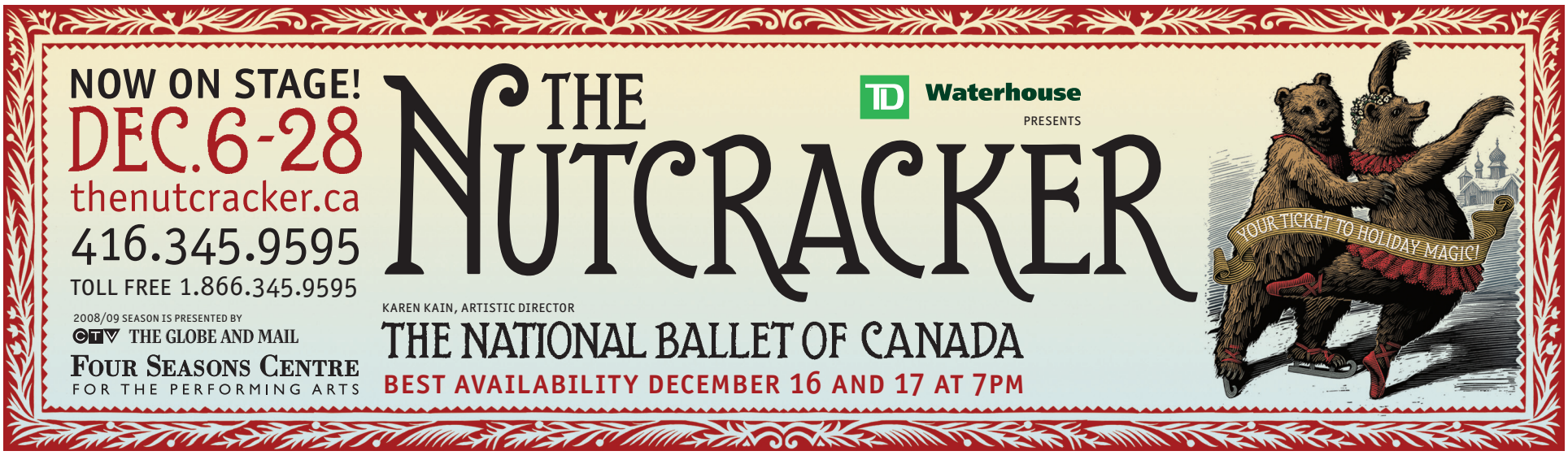
"I have the opportunity to go to our Illinois Supreme Court and ask them to declare our governor is unable to serve."
Lisa Madigan

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan said she's ready to go to the state Supreme Court to have Blagojevich declared unfit to hold office.

"I have the opportunity to go to our Illinois Supreme Court and ask them to declare our governor is unable to serve and put in our lieutenant-governor as acting governor," Madigan, a longtime Blagojevich foe who is considering a run for governor in 2010, told CNN.

She said she "won't wait terribly long," but she wants a signal from legislators if they plan to move quickly on impeachment proceedings.

Blagojevich's lawyers insist that he is innocent and have stressed that he still has important work to do for the state of Illinois. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Iraq vet must stay away from Tom Cruise

An Iraq war veteran who waved a gun and a U.S. flag on a California highway overpass last month has been ordered to stay away from Tom Cruise. Authorities say Edward Van Tassel, 28, has appeared at Cruise's Beverly Hills home three times with hopes of delivering a letter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

C. MOSS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An adult female, her adult daughter and their calves — all part of a free-ranging elephant population — are shown in this file photo.

Elephants die earlier in zoos: Study

Elephants born in European zoos die at much younger ages than those bred in protected spaces, says a new study that's adding fuel to an already fractious debate over the welfare of the animals in captivity.

The research, to be published today in the journal Science, found that endangered Asian elephants born in zoos had a mortality rate two times higher than those born in parks or working in the logging industry.

Georgia Mason, one of the report's authors, said zoo-born Asian elephants lived to the age of 19 on average, while those born in a Burmese timber operation had a lifespan of about 42 years.

The researchers analyzed data from 270 zoos in Europe dating back to 1960, and compared it to survival rates for elephants in both the protected Amboseli Park in Kenya and the logging industry in Myanmar.

They found that the less endangered African elephant died earlier in adulthood in zoos, with none making it past the age of 50.

The authors didn't investigate the causes of the shortened life spans, but suggested reasons why elephants appear to fare more poorly in captivity. The stress of being born in a zoo is suspected to predispose them to early death, while being transferred from one zoo to another is thought to produce lethal stressors.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California adopts major greenhouse-gas reforms

ENVIRONMENT California air regulators adopted a sweeping new climate plan yesterday that would require the state's utilities, refineries and large factories to transform their operations to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

The California Air Resources Board voted unanimously to adopt the nation's most comprehensive global warming plan, outlining for the first time how individuals and businesses would meet a landmark 2006 law that made the state a leader on global climate change.

"Today is the day we help unleash the full force of California's innovation and technology for a stronger planet."
Arnold Schwarzenegger

At the heart of the plan is the creation of a carbon-credit market designed to give the state's major polluters cheaper ways to cut the amount of their emissions. That market and the many other strategies referenced in the plan will be fleshed out and adopted over the next few years.

Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has said the state's climate law will stimulate the economy, said yesterday that California was providing a roadmap for the rest of the country.

"Today is the day we help unleash the full force of California's innovation and technology for a healthier planet, a stronger and more robust economy and a safer and more secure energy future," Schwarzenegger said in a statement released after the board's vote. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cod-fishing industry gets boost from deal between Norway, EU

INDUSTRY The European Union and Norway joined forces yesterday to permit larger catches of cod in the North Sea while still increasing protection for the commercially endangered fish by tackling waste.

In a deal lauded by both fishermen and environmentalists, the two sides agreed to reduce the practice of "discarding," which forces fishermen to throw back dead cod because they exceed quotas or fail other catch standards. Vessels will also have to use nets designed to miss cod that are too young.

North Sea stocks of cod have dropped by three-quarters in 30 years. However, fishermen will be able to catch 30 per cent more cod in the historic hunting grounds of the North Sea during the next year, following indications that stocks have for the first time in years shown timid signs of recovery.

Once a cheap staple, wild cod has become a rarity, fetching ever-higher prices. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fishing waste

- In the North Sea, beam trawlers discard up to 60 per cent of their cod catch. Environmental group Greenpeace says some EU fisheries discard up to 90 per cent.

3D Instructor Inspires

Lee Murray has joined Herzing College Toronto as the main 3D Animation Instructor. During his 3D career he has worked on Animated Television shows, Game Cut scenes, Advertisements for Television and Animated Feature films. His work includes Animation credits for a Television show created at C.O.R.E Animation called 'Urban Vermin'. Lee worked as a Motion Capture Actor and Animator for 'The Darkness' video game and 'Justice Heroes' video game. "The various areas you can specialize within 3D is amazing, everything from a Creature Animator to a Set Modeler", says Lee.

Possessing advanced skills in many 3D software programs Lee has the know how to create and manipulate the art required for various 3D projects. His area of expertise is Character Animation.

Since coming on board at Herzing, Lee has inspired the 3D students. His extensive practical experience, his caring teaching style and many years of instructing experience makes him a very popular 3D Animation instructor.

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22 world

Rare snow covers south Louisiana, Mississippi
Snow blanketed south Louisiana and parts of Mississippi yesterday, closing schools, triggering car crashes and taking out power. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bone drug may help fight breast cancer

HEALTH New research adds fresh hope that a drug that strengthens bones might also fight breast cancer.

Women who were given the drug Zometa as part of their initial treatment had greater tumour shrinkage and were less likely to need radical surgery, according to a preliminary study reported yesterday at a cancer conference in Texas.

In June, doctors were stunned when a big study found that Zometa — given to prevent bone loss caused by certain cancer treatments — also greatly cut the risk that cancer would recur in women who developed the disease before menopause.

Cancer specialists are eagerly awaiting the final results of a second, ongoing study testing Zometa in 3,360 women who had breast cancer after menopause — a much more common situation.

Its leaders gave a mini-report yesterday on 205 participants who had chemotherapy to try to shrink their tumours before surgery.

Those given infusions of Zometa along with chemo had a third more tumour shrinkage and, as a result, were less likely to need their whole breast removed versus just the lump, said study leader Dr. Robert Coleman of the University of Sheffield in England.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Study finding

- Eleven per cent of Zometa takers had a complete response to treatment — no evidence of cancer in their breasts or lymph nodes — versus six per cent of women given chemo alone.

Mugabe says cholera crisis over

ZIMBABWE President Robert Mugabe declared yesterday there is "no cholera" in Zimbabwe and that the country's health crisis is over, even as the United Nations raised the epidemic's death toll to 783.

Cholera has spread rapidly in Zimbabwe because of a crumbling health-care system and lack of clean water. The UN said 16,403 cases have been reported.

South Africa has declared the cholera-hit border region with Zimbabwe a disaster area as the disease spreads to other countries.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prosecutors mull whether to charge in Nazi guard case

CRIME Germany's highest criminal court has turned over the case against an alleged former Nazi death-camp guard to Munich prosecutors.

Yesterday's move paves the way for the possible extradition of 88-year-old John Demjanjuk from the United States for trial in Germany.

Munich prosecutors will now decide whether there is enough evidence of involvement by Demjanjuk in the deaths of 29,000 Jews at the Sobibor death camp in Poland during the Second World War to charge him.

Background

- John Demjanjuk says he was a Soviet soldier captured by the Germans in 1942. But a U.S. judge ruled in 2002 that Demjanjuk had served at several Nazi death camps during the war.

Demjanjuk lived in a Munich-area refugee camp after the war before emigrating to the United States in 1952.

The retired autoworker has denied the allegations against him.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Child's skeletal remains found in Florida
Officials were hustling to identify the remains of a child found in Florida yesterday, hoping to solve the mystery of a missing toddler. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italy to give cheese to poor to boost industry

The Italian government says it plans to give cheese away to the underprivileged as a way to combat poverty while propping up one of the country's iconic industries.

Agriculture Minister Luca Zaia says he is committed to buying 100,000 30-kilogram wheels each of Parmigiano Reggiano and the very similar Grana Padano cheese to donate to the needy.

Producers have sought government help in the face of prices that have fallen some 25 per cent over the past five years.

> **"It doesn't resolve the problem, but it is a help. This is a crisis of pricing, not of consumption."**
> Giorgio Apostoli

The government said it will buy three per cent of the annual production at market prices.

The Parmigiano Reggiano and Grana Padano consortia put the value of the purchase at about $66 million US.

"It's a help. It doesn't resolve the problem, but it is a help," said Giorgio Apostoli, who represents dairy farmers for the Coldiretti agriculture lobby.

"This is a crisis of pricing, not of consumption," he added, noting that while consumption of the more expensive Parmigiano Padano has fallen in the last year, that of Grana Padano has risen slightly.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peru **Chocolate citadel**

KAREL NAVARRO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marriott Hotel pastry chef Edwin Solis adjusts a wall in a miniature chocolate replica of the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu in the hotel's lobby for the holiday season in Lima, Peru, yesterday.

1 in 9 U.S. kids use alternative medicine

HEALTH More than one in nine children and teens use herbal supplements or some other form of alternative medicine, the government has said, citing a new national survey.

It's the first time children's use of such remedies, including acupuncture, meditation and chiropractic care, has been measured. Adult use of alternative treatments remains about the same as it was in 2002 — more than one in three.

Not included

- Vitamin and mineral supplements were not counted as alternative medicine by researchers, nor were folk medicine practices or religious healing.

Herbal remedies were the top type of alternative medicine for both adults and those under 18. Leading the list for children were echinacea, used for colds, and fish oil, sometimes given for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Such therapies were most often given for head or neck pain, colds and anxiety. Body aches and insomnia were other top reasons kids got alternative therapies, found the study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scientists say earthquake in Sumatra likely

FINDINGS Another devastating earthquake along the coast of western Sumatra is likely during the lifetime of many people now living there, researchers are warning.

More than 200,000 died when a quake in that region generated a tsunami across the Indian Ocean on Dec. 26, 2004, and quakes have continued, including a major shock in 2007.

Researchers report in today's edition of the journal Science that a quake with loss of life and property equal to that of 2004 could occur within the next few decades.

The researchers reached their conclusion studying earthquake history of the region and sea-level changes recorded on corals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Tiring of the spectacle?

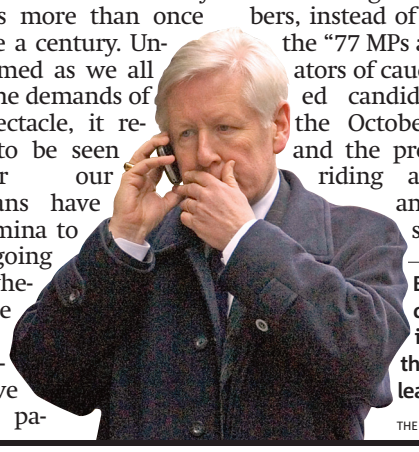
OmniVision

We can only imagine what was said to Bob Rae in the 24-hour period between last Monday and Tuesday to convince him to concede the fight for leader of the Liberal Party of Canada to his old college roommate Michael Ignatieff. Whatever it was, it must have been a compelling enough argument — or attractive enough offer — to breach Rae's apparently adamant opposition and forthright ego.

When the week began, Rae was insisting that "most people believe it's better to have a contest, it's better to have a choice." A day later, he was all resignation and curt practicality: "It's not the end of the world here, folks," he told the Toronto Star. "I mean, a decision had to be made."

"You have to be realistic about these things," he said, with the verbal equivalent of a wince. "It's just politics."

Politics is what we're seeing a lot of this season, as the howling rhetoric and convulsions of two election campaigns on either side of the border seems to have infused the customary torpor of Canadian Parliament with an intemperate combativeness that rarely emerges more than once or twice a century. Unaccustomed as we all are to the demands of this spectacle, it remains to be seen whether our politicians have the stamina to keep going — or whether the Canadian people have the patience to pay attention.



Bob Rae has called it quits in his bid for the Liberal leadership.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Call it what you want — and I like to call it a coup within an attempted coup — but it's hard to deny that the surprisingly brisk leadership shuffle the Liberals have undertaken this week is an acknowledgement that their assault on Stephen Harper's minority government might not be powered by fully charged batteries. Even after stepping aside for Ignatieff, Rae insisted that he would still have been up for a leadership battle if the party had decided to go to its members, instead of consulting the "77 MPs and 58 senators of caucus, defeated candidates from the October election and the presidents of riding associations and commission clubs" the Star summed up as the "Liberal elite."

Consulting the party's own bylaws, simply choosing alternative delegates from electoral district associations requires a candidate "(i) is a youth, if there are not six youth delegates from that EDA; (ii) is an aboriginal person, if there are not two aboriginal delegates from that EDA; (iii) is a woman, if there are not ten delegates from that EDA who are women; (iv) is a man, if there are not ten delegates from that EDA who are men; (v) is a senior, if there are not two delegates from that EDA who are seniors." You almost can't blame them for defaulting to the backroom that everyone thinks runs the Liberal party, in power or not.

Rae's right; whatever this is — and it's certainly nothing like democracy, perish the thought — it's just politics, God help us all.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Economic crisis to hit city's pocketbook

UrbanCompass

To reflect on the past 10 years in Toronto is to feel wistful. They were years of opportunity and initiative, a time when we aspired to greater things. We built our very own architectural controversy in the form of the Royal Ontario Museum's Michael Lee-Chin Crystal. The renovated Art Gallery of Ontario is our very own Frank Gehry work of genius. We made big plans albeit limited progress on improving public transit, cleaning up the air and transforming the waterfront from an embarrassment to less of an embarrassment.

Making a better city was frustrating and difficult. But it seemed possible. The last three months, however, illustrate how quickly the sense of possibility can unravel.

The affluent citizens whose charity supported high-profile projects are hunkered down in their mansions tending damaged balance sheets.

And while Mayor David Miller isn't admitting it quite yet, the city's finances are headed for the dumpster with the collapse of revenues from development fees, the land transfer tax, and other economic-growth dependent sources. As income declines, expenses will rise. The welfare bill alone will soar as employment insurance runs out for the growing number of people without jobs.

The McGuinty government promises to take back responsibility for the full cost of welfare benefits, but that will only happen gradually between 2010 and 2018. In the meantime, Toronto's 20 per cent share of the program is $180 million annually. Municipal officials expect the average monthly caseload to increase to 85,000 cases next year from 75,000 in 2008. But they acknowledge the number could be much higher. Every 1,000 additional cases costs the city treasury $2.6 million.

So what to do? The Ontario government should immediately begin paying the full cost of welfare. This will relieve cities of a potentially crippling budget item as the economy deteriorates. It will also free up money with no strings attached for municipal transit and other infrastructure projects that are ready to go.

Federal and provincial politicians should be tightfisted with automotive companies that may not live to manufacture another day and instead put their money on a sure thing — investments in water and sewage treatment plants, rail lines, bridges and roads.

In the short term this strategy will create jobs. In the longer term it will fix a whole lot of crumbling infrastructure and improve competitiveness. There are tough years ahead for cities. But they don't have to be lost years.

April Lindgren teaches at Ryerson University's School of Journalism, where she specializes in local news and urban affairs reporting.

Letters

GG has some explaining to do

We deserve an explanation. Governor General Michaëlle Jean has taken unprecedented moves with Parliament that affect us all.

The implications of her decision to prorogue Parliament are immense and she needs to give us a public account of her reasons for doing so. If she cannot or will not defend her actions then I can only assume that her position is merely an extension of the Prime Minister's Office and as such has no legitimacy.

STEVE MEIKLE, TORONTO

Politicians this week prove we still need the Queen's rep

RE: "Let's retire the queen" (Dec 10)

The Queen's representative, the Governor General, is a nonpolitical symbol of the nation and occasionally an unbiased arbiter of governance controversies. Does Mr. Sullivan really think an elected president would be unaffected by politics or be unbiased when rendering constitutional decisions? The antics of our politicians over the past few weeks clearly show leaving things to them is a recipe for chaos.

JOHN TAGG, TORONTO

If you don't like her, move

RE: "Let's retire the queen" (Dec 10)

Perhaps Mr. Sullivan should just move south to the United States, and ignore hundreds of years of shared history, and a place in the Commonwealth of Nations, if he finds the Queen to be such a thorn in his side.

TOM POKORNY, TORONTO

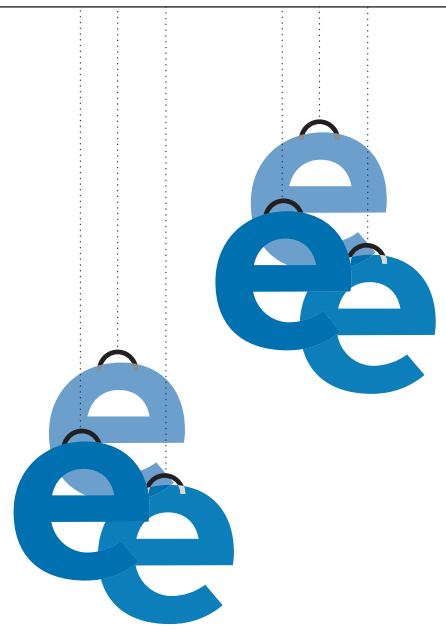
Measure twice, cut once

RE: "Let's retire the queen" (Dec 10)

Why it's bad to have one more step before a final decision? "Measure twice, cut once" as say Canadians. What a mess we would have with this fast-made coalition if not for the intervention of the GG. Now we have a reasonable cooling period for everyone — for Harper to think twice how to behave when in minority, and for the opposition to regroup and to choose the new stronger leader.

BORIS FOURSENKO, RICHMOND HILL

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.



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Loonie joins gang-up on faltering American dollar

The loonie traded as high as 82.24 cents US before falling back yesterday, joining major currencies posting big gains against the greenback as the U.S. dollar was pulled down by a swelling trade deficit and a looming trillion-dollar budget deficit. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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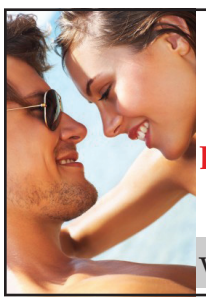
EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Business in brief

LIMELIGHT The men who ran a scam that cold-called investors and raised $2.75 million with high-pressure sales tactics and prospects of big gains on a company called Limelight Entertainment have been banned from trading securities and ordered to repay the money. The Ontario Securities Commission permanently banned president Carlos Da Silva and vice-president David Campbell. Salesman Joseph Daniels was banned for 10 years.

SPENDING Alberta's oil balloon continued to deflate yesterday after Canadian petroleum giants EnCana and Petro-Canada dropped more than $3 billion from their 2009 capital spending plans, citing the need to stay flexible during uncertain economic times.

METRO NEWS SERVICES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Ottawa broke EI law: Court

The federal government collected employment insurance premiums "unlawfully" for three years, the Supreme Court of Canada said yesterday.

In a 7-0 judgment, the court rejected arguments by two Quebec unions that the former Liberal government under prime ministers Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin had deliberately racked up huge employment insurance surpluses and then diverted them to help balance the federal budget. As of March 31, 2007, the EI surplus was $54.1 billion.

But the court found that EI premiums in 2002, 2003 and 2005 had been collected "unlawfully, without the necessary legislative authorization" from Parliament. That's because the federal cabinet was given the discretion to set the rates, without the criteria that had previously been used to guide those decisions.

Employment insurance was effectively transformed from a regulatory scheme into "a payroll tax," Justice Louise LeBel wrote for the court.

The court also affirmed the federal government's authority to take an "active role" by offering job programs within the employment insurance system. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Unclear

•The effect of the ruling is unclear. The court suspended the legal effects of its judgment for 12 months. But it did not order that any of the money be repaid, as the unions had asked, and did not tell the government how to remedy the situation.

BCE wants break fee as deal dies

Eighteen months ago, executives at BCE Inc. were slapping each other on the back after inking the world's biggest-ever leveraged buyout, valued at $52 billion including debt.

Yesterday, with the transaction officially pronounced dead because of an accounting firm's judgment call, the focus at the Montreal-based telecom giant seemed to be on finding someone to blame for the deal's high-profile implosion.

The Bell Canada parent demanded that the buyout group led by the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan fork over a $1.2 billion reverse break fee.

The reason? A termination notice that was delivered "prematurely" to BCE before the deal's official deadline yesterday.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A woman waits for service at a Bell store in downtown Toronto yesterday. BCE Inc. and the consortium that sought to acquire the telecom giant are now feuding over whether the would-be buyers owe $1.2 billion for walking away from the deal.

Teachers' and its U.S. partners — Providence Equity Partners Inc., Madison Dearborn Partners LLC, and Merrill Lynch Global Private Equity — responded that nobody is owed any money because the deal cratered on accounting firm KPMG's refusal to sign off on a solvency test, a condition to which both sides had agreed.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bank warns of mortgage, debt defaults

RECESSION Mortgage and consumer debt defaults could rise "significantly" if the global financial crisis deteriorates and triggers a widespread and deeper recession that cuts household income and makes it harder to pay the bills, the Bank of Canada warns.

In an assessment of the financial crisis, the bank concludes that significant risks remain for both the global economy and Canada if credit conditions don't begin to improve.

The Bank of Canada says the number of "vulnerable households" — the three per cent with a debt-to-income ratio above 40 per cent — could double by the end of next year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Nortel's listing on New York Stock Exchange in jeopardy
Nortel Networks may lose its listing on the New York Stock Exchange after its shares stayed below $1 US for 30 days. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Year of smartphone

'Apps' no longer just for tech-savvy users

The popularity of "apps" is expected to make 2009 the year of the app-driven smartphone.

The software applications can do literally thousands of diverse things like deliver your airline boarding pass to your smartphone, allow stock trading and video gaming playing, identify a song or provide language translation.

The popular iPhone already is a leader with its App Store, which Apple Inc. says now has more than 10,000 applications, both free and paid.

Competitor Research In Motion, best-known for its secure e-mail delivery on its BlackBerry, will open its own online app store next March. BlackBerry users can now go to Bplay.com to get apps for their devices.

Apps used to be a niche market for the tech-savvy crowd. Not anymore.

Consumers are taking to apps and Apple has led the way, said PC Magazine's Sascha Segan.

Apps are at the heart of smartphones, Segan said. "That's what makes smartphones tiny PCs."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Smart apps

• Smartphones, unlike other mobile phones, have advanced operating systems that can run apps. And it's the apps that are expected to increase the use of smartphones by both consumers and businesses.

Apartment vacancy rate declining

RENT Worries over the economy and a declining real estate market has some would be buyers staying put in rental housing, resulting in sharply declining rental apartment vacancy rates in Toronto.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation said the city's vacancy rate went down significantly to 2.1 per cent this year, compared to 3.2 per cent last year.

"Rising home ownership costs combined with growing economic uncertainty has dampened Ontario home buying activity during 2008, particularly among first time buyers," said Ted Tsiakopoulos, CMHC regional economist.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Market

•Vacancy rates between 2 and 3 per cent are considered by the industry to be a balanced market.

Canadian music stores may struggle this season

SALES The American music industry got a nasty shock after tallying sales receipts from Black Friday.

What was supposed to be a huge sales day was massively disappointing, according to U.S. industry magazine Billboard, with sales down 10 to 30 per cent compared to last year.

Guns N' Roses' new release Chinese Democracy was expected to sell between 300,000 and 784,000 copies that weekend in the U.S. — but only about 261,000 CDs were sold.

That's worrying news for Canadian music retailers, who typically depend on the holiday season for about a quarter of their annual sales.

But there's still some optimism based on all the other new CDs that are out or coming soon, said HMV Canada's director of product Ken Kirkwood.

When shoppers go in stores they'll see new CDs by the likes of Britney Spears, Coldplay, Fall Out Boy, Nickelback and AC/DC, and Kirkwood said there are no fewer than about 20 albums that have the potential to be big sellers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

LAST CALL Jim Brickman, who founded Ontario's first craft brewery, is stepping aside after 24 years. The entrepreneur leaves a company that grew to $34 million in sales at its peak and inspired others to challenge industry giants Molson and Labatt. But Brick Brewing — whose best-known brands include Laker, sold at the lowest legal price in Ontario, and Red Cap which reintroduced the "stubby" — has struggled as the number of alternative brands exploded. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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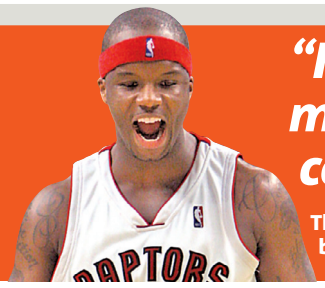
Junior selection camp opens

Thirty-eight players arrived in Ottawa yesterday for Canada's world junior hockey selection camp. A morning skate and an evening intrasquad game are scheduled for today and tomorrow, but just an intrasquad game is on Sunday's agenda. The 22-player team will be named Monday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



"I really didn't feel wanted from a management standpoint ... There were comments made behind the scenes."

The Raptors' Jermaine O'Neal, speaking to the Indianapolis Star regarding his former boss, Indiana Pacers president Larry Bird. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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A father's pain takes him on Voyage

Paul Harbridge turns to the pen – and golf course – following his daughter's death

The first snow has barely melted, an icy wind chills Paul Harbridge to the bone, but he's determined to play 18 holes.

There's not another soul around at the Centennial Park Golf Centre, which turns out to be a good thing. When Harbridge undoes his pants to tuck his shirt in to combat the cold, he fails to take into account the weight of the golf balls in his pockets and his pants fall to his knees.

His momentary chagrin turns to a smile as he realizes it's the kind of silly thing that would have given his daughter Helena a good chuckle.

Helena Harbridge died in her sleep in April 2006 at age 18 of a suspected heart arrhythmia. She was at the University of West Georgia on a golf scholarship, where she was en route to becoming an academic all-American with a sterling 4.0 GPA and had won a tournament in her freshman season.

She had just spoken to her parents on the phone that Easter weekend and told them she was going to have a nap. She never woke up. She'd had health problems as a child, but were thought to be in the past.

"As a parent, you lose a child, it just tears your guts out, it tears your soul out," says Harbridge. "I remember the day Helena passed away, my first instinct was, 'I just want to go with Helena. I've driven her to Brownies. I've driven to her golf tournaments. I drove her to university. I want to go with her to heaven, you know.'"

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Paul Harbridge walks the fairway at the Weston Golf and Country Club on his daughter's birthday in October. Harbridge has written a book in honour of his daughter, Helena, a golfer who died at 18 due to a heart arrythmia. The children's book Helena's Voyage, promotes understanding between religions.

Harbridge said he began to read a lot of books about religion because he wanted to know where his daughter had gone. One book that had an impact was Maria Rosa Menocal's The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews, and Christians Created A Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain.

"This really touched something in my heart, because my wife is from Spain and I always thought that my children most likely had Jewish, Muslim and Christian ancestry, because the Muslims had been in Spain for nearly 800 years and there were Jewish settlements there during the Roman era."

At the same time Harbridge began to think he would like to write a book, he was struck by repeated images he saw on TV in news reports from the Middle East: Mothers coming out of the wreckage of bombed-out houses carrying their dead children.

"I'd seen this before, but for the first time I knew that grief, I knew what they were feeling and I said, 'This is crazy. This has got to stop.'"

One day, he had an idea for a children's book and he wrote it in a couple days.

Helena's Voyage, published in the United Kingdom (O Books, $11.95), is about a sick little girl who goes on an adventure at night. She's taken by an angel in his sailboat to visit a Christian city, a Muslim city and a Jewish city, as well as a war-torn area. It's about the simple lessons of love and faith. "I think at a higher level, I think what I'm trying to say is these three religions ... they teach the same values," says Harbridge. "I think the most important, first of all, is love God and your neighbour. That's it. You can go hardly go wrong if you do that."

Harbridge also did all the illustrations for the book on computer. He would light two candles while doing the pictures, one for Helena and one for her Spanish grandfather, who died two months later.

"Helena's Voyage is I think my labour of love, one of the ways I'm trying to use this huge love for Helena, follow her direction to find another place to put this love," says Harbridge.

"I hope this does good in her memory."

PHOTO COURTESY PAUL HARBRIDGE

Helena Harbridge died in 2006 while on a golf scholarship at a U.S. school.

There are three golf awards named in her honour: One at the University of West Georgia for international students who excel in and outside the classroom, another for sportsmanship given annually by the Canadian Junior Golf Association, as well as one by the Golf Association of Ontario.

Helena found her strength through golf after struggling with a number of illnesses as a child. When she was 10, her parents asked her older brother, Daniel, to take her along on a round with his friends.

So she started playing with three 14-year-old boys at Scarlett Woods Golf Club, where her natural swing caught the eye of pro Lianne Ritchie, who gave her free lessons for three years.

"She had low self-esteem and she used to call herself the 'sick girl,'" says Harbridge. "That's what she used to say when she was down, 'Oh, I'm the sick girl.'... Every time I used to hear an ambulance, I would say, 'Oh no, is Helena going to the hospital because of asthma or something?' But when she started golf, she started to really grow and then she started calling herself the 'golfer girlie.'"

Golf remains a link between Harbridge and his daughter, as he plays his first round of the season on the day she passed away, April 15, and usually a frigid final round of the year on her birthday, Oct. 29.

"When I wrote the book or when I go golfing or when I'm alone with her Mom doing some of the things or talking about some of the things we used to do together, that's when I really feel close to Helena."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Helena's Voyage

- Paul Harbridge will sign copies of his book, Helena's Voyage, at the Coles bookstore in Cloverdale Mall Sunday, Dec. 21, from noon to 3 p.m.

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Legace on the shelf

St. Louis Blues goaltender Manny Legace is listed as day-to-day after getting kneed in the head. Legace was hurt in the first period of Wednesday's 4-2 loss at Anaheim. He gave up one goal on 11 shots before leaving. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Van Ryn may rejoin Maple Leafs tonight

Ron Wilson was reminiscing Wednesday about his uncle Johnny's ironman streak, a stretch of 580 consecutive games that set the NHL standard for endurance in the 1950s.

"I asked him how he did it," the Leafs coach recalled. "He said, 'I played with all kinds of injuries. I was afraid if I told anybody I was hurt or if (Red Wings owner) Jack Adams found out, I'd be sent to the minors.' I think, for an average player, that's how you felt back then. It's different today, it's much safer."

When it comes to medical issues, today's NHL borders on the enlightened. While there remains a certain heroic status accorded players battling through injuries, particularly during the playoffs, generally the wounded can't simply claim to be healed and pull their uniform back on. The team and its medical staff want proof first.

So while defencemen Mike Van Ryn and Jonas Frogren have both practised and both have been telling everyone they are ready to play, that doesn't mean they will automatically be in the Toronto lineup at Buffalo tonight.

"We're going to get (Frogren) another MRI and make sure he's not covering up because he wants to get back in there," Wilson said.

For Van Ryn, it's a little more complicated. He suffered facial injuries, a broken hand and a concussion when Montreal's Tom Kostopoulos slammed him into the glass from behind five weeks ago.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mike Van Ryn was all smiles at practice yesterday.

Before playing, he has to undergo a test to see if his brain function compares favourably to the baseline test he did at the start of training camp.

"It's a whole bunch of random questions to see if you get confused," Van Ryn said.

"Lasts about an hour. I don't feel I'll have any problems with it."

Not so fast, Wilson said.

"The medical report I got said he wouldn't be ready till Tuesday, but you never know," the coach said, citing concern about pain in the defenceman's hand.

"We'll see."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Report: Jays sign Clement

MLB It appears the Toronto Blue Jays are about to add another pitcher to the mix for their starting rotation. Matt Clement has agreed to a minor-league deal with the club, MLB.com reported yesterday. A team official said nothing was official yet, although an announcement could come today. The right-hander was an all-star in 2005, when he went 13-6 with a 4.57 ERA in 32 starts but a series of shoulder problems began in 2006 and he hasn't pitched in the big leagues since.

Putz joins Mets as setup man

MLB The New York Mets made another move to overhaul their much-maligned bullpen late Wednesday night, obtaining J.J. Putz from Seattle as part of a three-team, 12-player trade that gives them a setup man for new closer Francisco Rodriguez. An all-star in 2007 when he saved 40 games, Putz was 6-5 with a 3.88 ERA and 15 saves in 23 chances last season when he missed long stretches with rib cage and elbow injuries.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Mobley retires due to heart condition

New York Knicks guard Cuttino Mobley retired from the NBA yesterday because of a heart disease that he said has gotten worse. Mobley said doctors told him he faced significant risks if he kept playing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

International Bowl meet 'n' greet focuses on Gill

University of Buffalo Bulls making first NCAA bowl appearance Jan. 3 at Rogers Centre

Turner Gill is leaving it all in God's hands.

The former CFL quarterback will lead the upstart University of Buffalo into its first-ever bowl game, taking on the Connecticut Huskies in the International Bowl on Jan. 3 at Rogers Centre (The Score, noon ET).

But tempering the Bulls' excitement somewhat is the stark reality that the game could be Gill's last as the club's head coach.

Gill, who spent two seasons with the Montreal Concordes before being forced to retire due to concussions, guided the Bulls to an 8-5 record and a Mid-American Conference title following a stunning 42-24 upset victory over a previously unbeaten Ball State team that was No. 12 in the NCAA rankings.

The former Nebraska star quarterback, who led the Cornhuskers to a national title and in '83 was Heisman Trophy finalist, has successfully revamped a Buffalo program that was a dismal 10-69 in its first seven years in the MAC before Gill took over as a first-time head coach three seasons ago.

As a result, both Syracuse and Auburn have asked — and received — permission to speak to Gill, the MAC coach of the year in '07, about their football head-coaching vacancies.

Predictably, when asked yesterday about his future at an International Bowl media gathering at Rogers Centre, Gill said his main priority was preparing to face UConn (7-5). However, Gill, a very spiritual man, added that at a more appropriate time he will seek guidance in prayer before deciding his future.

"Understanding my purpose, God places me there in Buffalo but it doesn't necessarily mean that longevity means you didn't get it done," Gill

Winless season looking likely as Lions roar with futility

The winless Detroit Lions are clearly the NFL's worst team this season.

They might be the worst in the league's modern era, earning a spot in the conversation with the 1976 Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 1980 New Orleans Saints, 1986 Indianapolis Colts and last year's Miami Dolphins.

"It's hard, but it's fair," Detroit running back Kevin Smith said.

Indeed.

Detroit (0-13) seems destined to make NFL history as the first 0-16 team with a game Sunday at Indianapolis and a home finale against New Orleans before closing the season at Green Bay.

If the Lions seal the deal by losing their last three games, at least one former Buc from the infamous 0-14 team will not be popping champagne to celebrate.

"It's a tough situation," said Vikings linebacker coach Fred Pagac, who played for Tampa Bay in its inaugural season. "I hope something works out for them."

"There is a kind of reverse immortality that comes with playing on a team like that."
Pat Toomay

After the Bucs went 0-14, three teams threatened to join them in league infamy before Detroit dropped into the bad company this season.

The 1980 Saints lost their first 14 games before finishing 1-15. The 1986 Colts started 0-13, then won their next three games. The 2007 Dolphins began 0-13 last year and ended 1-15.

Tampa Bay, though, set the bar low for awful teams during its expansion year three-plus decades ago.

Clad in ghastly creamsicle uniforms and helmets bearing a winking pirate logo, the Bucs stumbled and bumbled their way to the modern standard for NFL futility.

Tampa Bay was shut out five times and outscored on average by three touchdowns with rookie defensive lineman Lee Roy Selmon and Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Steve Spurrier.

"There is a kind of reverse immortality that comes with playing on a team like that," former Buc defensive end Pat Toomay has said.

Even if the Lions follow up their awful season with another, they will be hard pressed to match the Bucs' 26-game losing streak between the 1976 and '77 seasons, which still stands as NFL record.

Detroit is, however, in the midst of the worst eight-season stretch since 1950 by winning just under 25 per cent of its games since 2001.

The Saints matched Tam-

Laval won Vanier Cup this year, will host next year

The Vanier Cup is headed to Quebec City. Laval University won the rights to Canadian university football's championship game for 2009 and 2010, beating out a series of last-minute bids. Next year's contest will mark the first time it will be played in Quebec and just the second time it will be played outside Ontario. THE CANADIAN PRESS

said. "I'm not sure what the future holds.

"We'll see how things go each and every day but I am focused on the University of Connecticut's football team and preparing our team for them."

While this will be Buffalo's first bowl appearance, it will mark the school's second bowl invitation.

The 1958 Bulls squad posted an 8-1 record and was invited to play in the Tangerine Bowl. But when told that two African-American players wouldn't be allowed to play, the team decided against participating and the school turned down the invite.

Several members of that team will be here for the International Bowl festivities.

The uncertainty surrounding Gill could serve as a distraction for the Bulls, but senior quarterback Drew Willy said the coach has effectively taught his team how to deal with such factors.

GETTY IMAGES

Coach Turner Gill of the Buffalo Bulls is showered with Gatorade after upsetting Ball State last week.

"We just take all of our beliefs from our head coach," he said. "I think we've done a good job of that."

Warde Manuel, Buffalo's athletic director, says while he gave both Syracuse and Auburn permission to speak to Gill, he has no idea what direction Gill is leaning toward.

"All I've said is I've given the opportunity when asked by Syracuse and Auburn if they could talk to him," Warde said. "Other than that, I'm letting him handle it alone and the way he wants to do it and deal with it the way he wants to." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bills' Schobel placed on IR

NFL Aaron Schobel was placed on injured reserve yesterday because of a nagging left foot injury that has forced the Buffalo Bills' top pass-rusher to miss most of the season. The team announced the move a day after coach Dick Jauron indicated the Bills were considering ending the player's season. Schobel has missed eight games with a severely sprained foot ligament. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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pa Bay's 0-14 record, but had two more games to finally win. They took advantage by winning on the road by a point against the New York Jets.

Fans in the Big Easy were particularly upset 28 years ago because the Saints were 8-8 the previous season. Archie Manning was a solid quarterback, but New Orleans' defence was dreadful.

On Nov. 24, it cost coach Dick Nolan his job.

As the losses piled up for a team known as the "Aints," a local media personality, the late Bernard (Buddy D) Diliberto, suggested that Saints fans wear paper grocery bags over their heads. Ever since, the brown paper bags have become a familiar sight.

The Colts went 0-8-1 in the strike-shortened 1982 season, then managed to lose even more games four years later. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Accomplishing 0-14

- Only one team in NFL history, the 1976 Tampa Bay Buccaneers (Old creamsicle-coloured pirate logo, above), finished the season winless. That was when the NFL only played a 14-game schedule. By losing Sunday against Indianapolis, the Lions would become only the second team since to lose 14 straight games in a season.

'Skins fans stuff the ballot

NFL The Washington Redskins won the fan Pro Bowl voting in nine of 19 positions for the NFC, the result of an aggressive marketing campaign that paid dividends even for the lowest rated kicker in the league.

Tallies released by the league yesterday show the Redskins on top where serious Pro Bowl consideration is deserved (middle linebacker London Fletcher) and where it's not (kicker Shaun Suisham, who leads the NFL in missed field goals).

Two Redskins were in the top 10: Running back Clinton Portis (fourth) and tight end Chris Cooley (10th).

The Redskins' "Vote the Redskins Ticket" campaign was so successful that the league head office sent an e-mail to the 31 other teams last month pointing out that Washington players were leading in 16 of 19 positions and that it would be a good time to "promote Pro Bowl voting to your fans." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Howard leads in NBA all-star voting

Orlando Magic centre Dwight Howard leads the league with 775,933 all-star votes, according to returns released by the NBA. Cleveland's LeBron James, with 643,786 votes, and Boston's Kevin Garnett, with 495,514, lead Eastern Conference forwards. New Jersey's Yi Jianlian is third followed by Chris Bosh, who has 274,195 votes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Colangelo knows there's holes to plug

Need for another big man with Humphries down, GM says it doesn't hurt to talk minor trades

Bryan Colangelo is resisting change for the sake of change, but there may be Raptor roster movement sooner rather than later.

Seeing a need for another big man with Kris Humphries injured and rookie Nathan Jawai still not even practising, the Raptor general manager could have a new player on the team as early as next week. And the acquisition won't necessarily come via a trade. It could be as simple as signing an unemployed free agent or minor leaguer to a contract for the rest of the season.

There are a handful of players who might warrant consideration as Colangelo looks around for some frontcourt help. There are ex-NBAers like Juwan Howard, Jake Voskuhl and even Michael Ruffin who might fit what Colangelo needs while a player like Courtney Sims, a 6-11 banger who has been in free agent camps with Toronto before, could be picked up out of the D League.

Colangelo has said he thinks the need for a fourth big man is, at the moment, acute. Humphries has missed four games already and is not expected to play tonight in New Jersey and Jawai's heart issues have kept him off the court all season.

And while the move of Andrea Bargnani back to the bench in a backup role to Chris Bosh and Jermaine O'Neal will exacerbate the problem a bit, if coach Jay Triano is serious about cutting Bosh's minutes, the need for a fourth big man is dire. Colangelo said he's not ready to pull the trigger on any hugely significant deal because he still believes the roster as constructed could be among the best in the second tier of the Eastern Conference behind clear front-runners Boston and Cleveland.

"I talk to various teams about various things but we still liked this team a lot coming into the season — all of us — and we still do," the president and general manager said yesterday.

That's not to say he hasn't been fielding all kinds of offers of late. With the Raptors scuffling along, rival general managers are burning up the phone lines and acting like sharks circling their prey.

"It (having trade talks) is natural from my perspective but other teams, when they smell blood in the water, they come at you," he said.

And that's not necessarily a bad thing from Colangelo's perspective. He isn't about to do anything with what he sees as his core group of Bosh, Jose Calderon, Bargnani and O'Neal but the urgency other GMs have may open avenues previously closed.

"It stimulates the process (of finding a mutually-beneficial trade)," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Stern regrets Grizzlies failure

NBA Given another chance, NBA commissioner David Stern would have handled the league's foray into Vancouver differently.

In a podcast interview with ESPN.com, Stern was asked what decisions he would take a mulligan on over the course of his 24 years on the job.

"I wish we hadn't had the Vancouver experience," Stern replied. "Great city, and we disappointed them, and we disappointed ourselves."

The NBA expanded into Toronto and Vancouver in 1995. The Vancouver Grizzlies amassed a 101-359 record in six seasons before moving to Memphis in 2001. "Maybe we shouldn't have done it there," Stern said. "Maybe we should have only expanded into Toronto ... but that was a great disappointment to me." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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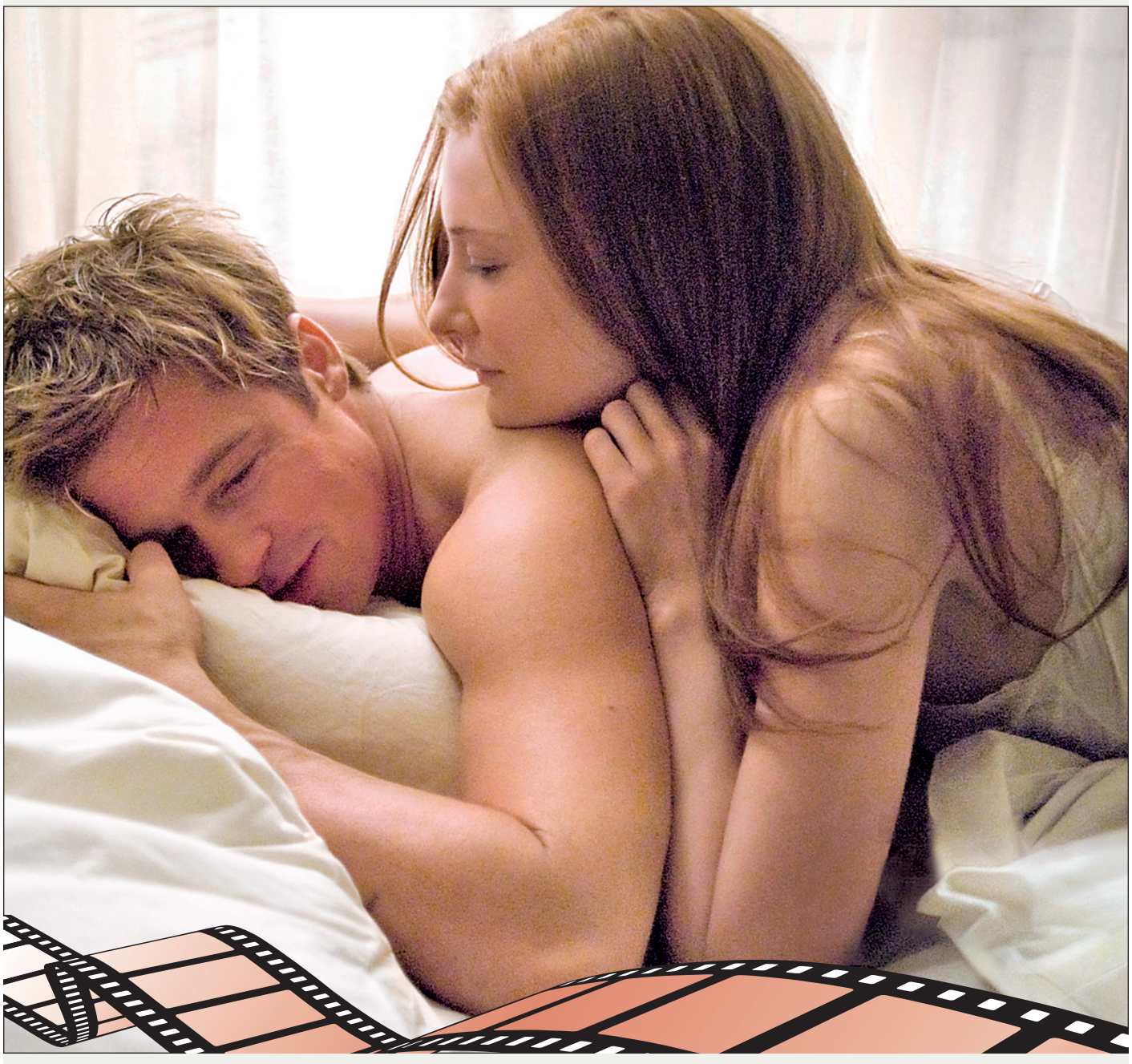
Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Just golden

Pg 38



The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (starring Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett), Frost/Nixon and Doubt led the Golden Globe nominations with five nods each. All the buzz around The Dark Knight fell flat, as the blockbuster only picked up one nomination.

movies

Pg 40

Doubt's stunning cast carries compelling screenplay.

music

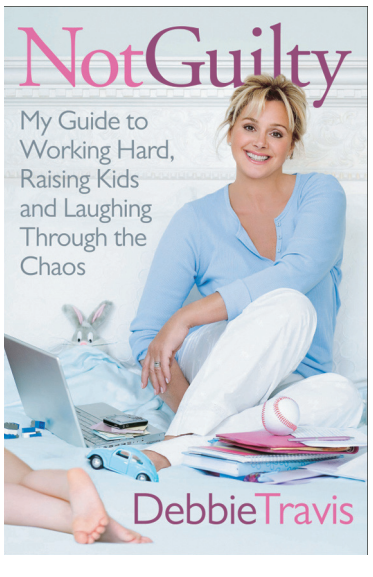
Pg 52

So what's on Alan Cross' Christmas music playlist?

going out

Pg 56

Check out five ways to enjoy The Nutcracker in the city.



This Christmas, is TRUTH stranger than FICTION?

"Treat your kids like a paint job. It's all in the preparation. Take the time to sand and prime well and the results will be as good as perfect. Don't worry too much about the cracks or blotches – they just add character." —Debbie Travis

Books for Gifts

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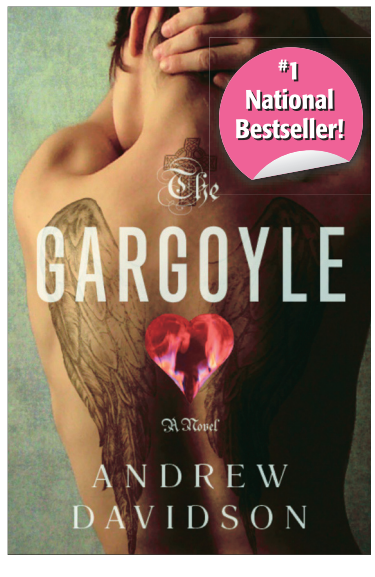

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Tokyo Mater to play ahead of Bolt

Disney-Pixar will premiere its 3-D short film Tokyo Mater at theatres nationwide before its animated movie Bolt. The short is the fourth in Disney-Pixar's Cars Toons series, inspired by the hit 2006 film Cars. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

The Golden Globes nominations are...

Benjamin Button, Frost/Nixon, Doubt lead the pack with five nods each

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Frost/Nixon and Doubt led the Golden Globes with five nominations each yesterday, though the former two had a leg up with best-drama slots.

Other best-drama nominees: The Reader, Revolutionary Road and Slumdog Millionaire.

Meryl Streep had two nominations, best dramatic actress for Doubt and musical or comedy actress for Mamma Mia!; and Kate Winslet also had two, best dramatic actress for Revolutionary Road and supporting actress for The Reader.

Also chosen for dramatic actress were: Anne Hathaway, Rachel Getting Married; Angelina Jolie, Changeling; and Kristin Scott Thomas, I've Loved You So Long.

Nominees for dramatic actor were Leonardo DiCaprio, Revolutionary Road; Frank Langella, Frost/Nixon; Brad Pitt, Benjamin Button; Sean Penn, Milk; and Mickey Rourke, The Wrestler.

The year's biggest hit, the Batman blockbuster The Dark Knight, came in with strong awards buzz across the board but had only one nomination, supporting actor for Heath Ledger as the Joker. Ledger died of an accidental prescription drug overdose on Academy Awards nominations day last Jan. 22.

"This nomination is deeply appreciated and is not lost on those of us who continue to love and miss him," said father Kim Ledger in a statement.

Happy-Go-Lucky star Sally Hawkins capped a big week of Hollywood honours with a Globe nomination for best actress in a musical or comedy. Over the previous two days, Hawkins was chosen as the year's best film actress by both the Los Angeles Film Critics Association and the New York Film Critics Circle. Hawkins was riding in a taxi in London when she got the news in a cellphone text from her mother.

"I didn't really believe it till I got the official call," said Hawkins, who stars as an eternally cheery schoolteacher whose optimism is put to the test in Happy-Go-Lucky. "I didn't believe her initially when I got the text. I just sent a text back saying, 'Are you sure?' Then the phone went ballistic with all the calls."

Doubt, which got four acting nominations in all, also scored supporting nominations for Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams and Viola Davis, plus a screenplay slot for director John Patrick Shanley, who adapted his Pulitzer Prize-winning play.

Tom Cruise and Robert Downey Jr. were nominated as supporting actor for Tropic Thunder. Each played odd roles: Cruise's psychotic movie producer in a bald cap, beard and fat suit, and Downey playing a white actor who undergoes a skin-tinting procedure to play a black man.

The Harvey Milk film biography Milk also had been at the top of awards watchers' lists but only grabbed an acting nomination for Penn. And one of the year's biggest comedy hits, Sex and the City, was shut out completely.

The glitzy Globes were cancelled last year after celebrities said they would boycott the show in honour of a strike by the Writers Guild of America. Winners were announced at a hasty news conference instead. Hollywood faces labour strife again with a potential strike by the Screen Actors Guild. But a strike-authorization vote early next month would come too late to affect the Globes this time.

The awards are presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, a group of about 85 critics and reporters for overseas outlets.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GoldenGlobes

THE NOMINEES: For a complete list of Golden Globe nominees, visit metronews.ca/entertainment.

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, starring Brad Pitt, received five Golden Globe nominations.

"A treat to watch." –Leonard Maltin, ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT

"A Christmas feast you won't want to miss!" –Maria Salas, TERRA.COM

"Warm, fuzzy and fun." –David Sheehan, HOLLYWOOD CLOSE-UPS

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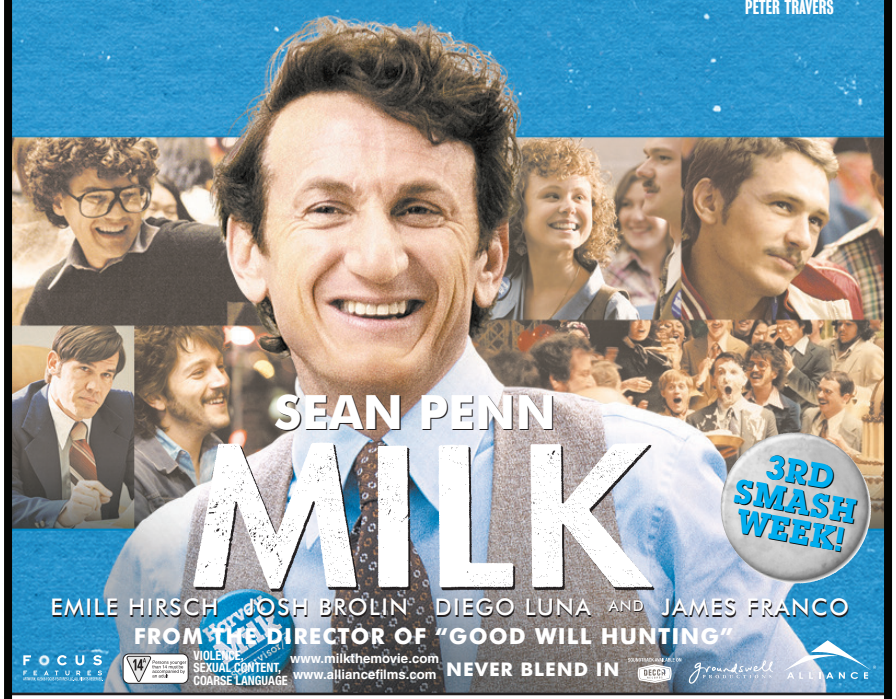

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Lewis to receive an Oscar

Jerry Lewis has never been nominated for an Oscar, but he's going get one anyway. The 82-year-old will receive the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award at the Oscar ceremony in February. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Reader offers complicated discussion

The **Reader**

Director: Stephen Daldry
Stars: Kate Winslet, Ralph Fiennes
Classification: 14A
Rating: ●●●

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW You know we've officially entered Hollywood's awards season when it's time for the studios to trot out all of the big prestige pictures that they are sure will warm audiences' hearts and bring home a few little gold statues.

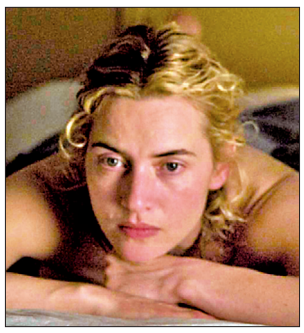
The Reader is an obvious choice because it not only deals with the Holocaust (one of the Academy's favorite subjects), also stars the oft-nominated actress Kate Winslet and was produced by the Oscar-loving Harvey Weinstein.

On paper, the movie sounds like a syrupy hanky fest suitable only for TV broadcast. Yet, like the Bernhard Schlink book that it is based on, The Reader is actually a surprisingly complex examination of the holocaust.

The film is about Michael Berg, who as a young man had an affair with an older woman named Hanna Schmitz. He later discover that she was a former SS guard at a concentration camp. What starts out as a fairly generic (if uncommonly graphic) spring/autumn love affair soon transforms into a meditation on the challenges post-war Germany faced in accepting the compliancy of the previous generation.

Kate Winslet is exceptional as Hannah Schmitz, managing to be alluring and mysterious, while also deeply flawed and scarred by her past. Ralph Fiennes feels somewhat wasted as the placid adult Michael, but the teenage actor David Kross, who tackles the disillusioned character in his youth, is absolutely brilliant.

As with practically every movie about this subject matter, there is plenty of heart-tugging sentimentality that can get tiring, but for the most part director Stephen Daldry (Billy Elliot) presents a complicated discussion of the Holocaust that doesn't give in to easy answers. As a piece of drama it can be a little, dry, boring and predictable, but as a statement about the holocaust and post-war Germany, The Reader is a far more challenging film than is usually made in Hollywood.



Kate Winslet

GoldenGlobes

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS NOD: Kate Winslet (The Reader)

• The Reader has four nominations.

No Doubt about it — stunning

Doubt

Director: John Patrick Shanley
Stars: Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman
Classification: PG
Rating: ●●●●

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Meryl Streep and Philip Seymour Hoffman star in Doubt.

Meryl Streep could read the phone book on camera and make it compelling drama. So drop the legendary thespian in a Pulitzer Prize winning play adaptation and you're almost guaranteed stunning cinema.

Such is the case with Doubt, a slow-paced, but excellent tale about a private Catholic school under a dark shadow of wrongdoing in 1964.

Streep plays Sister Beauvier, the kind of strict principal who outlaws ballpoint pens, cough drops and dismisses Frosty the Snowman as a pagan song. After all, "He does come to life."

With one eye on her charges and the other on lenient new pastor, Father Flynn (Philip Seymour Hoffman), she warns her staff to be diligent. When an impressionable teacher (Amy Adams) notices odd behavior between Flynn and the school's first African-American pupil, Beauvier sets out to eject the priest regardless of evidence.

Adapted from his own play, filmmaker John Patrick Shanley succeeds at creating one of the year's most intimate, character-driven dramas ripe with tension and subtext. Rich with a moral complexity that provides a great amount of gravitas, it's the film's small, but stellar cast that circumnavigates this masterpiece.

As mentioned, Streep is stunning and should nab her 15th Oscar nomination but one cannot overlook Shanley's solid screenplay. So much for having to sit through the phone book.

GoldenGlobes

BEST ACTRESS (DRAMA): Meryl Streep (Doubt)

• Doubt has five nominations in total.

On the web

• Doubt trailers, screen times and photos are available at *metronews.ca/movies*

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Amelio named festival head
Oscar-nominated director Gianni Amelio has been named chief of the Turin Film Festival, which focuses on art-house and indie movies. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Movies

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Delgo better left in bargain bin

Delgo

Director: Marc F. Alder, Jason Maurer
Stars: Freddie Prinze Jr, Jennifer Love Hewitt
Classification: PG
Rating:

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Sometimes I wonder if the people who make family films hate children. Sure, there are plenty of children's movies that are wonderful, but for the most part they rank amongst the most boring, clichéd, unfunny movies ever spat onto the screen.

It's as if family filmmakers are convinced that their core audience is so young and stupid that they'll watch anything. Case in point: Delgo, an almost incomprehensible film that will be filling clearance bins very soon. This CGI-animated movie is about a mythical land ruled by flying people, reptilian people, goblins, and non-speaking monsters (they all have actual names, but they are difficult-to-remember nonsense words).

Because of a former evil queen, there is a long-brooding feud between the flying people and the reptilian people which leads to a war that can only be stopped by a plucky reptile boy and an impossibly perfect flying princess, who falls in love and helps unite the fighting creatures. It's all pretty clichéd fantasy storytelling that could have been salvaged by clever writing, impressive animation, or entertaining celebrity voice casting, but sadly the film boasts none of the above.

Delgo was directed and co-written by Marc F. Alder and Jason Maurer. They had never made a film before and it shows. As with all CGI movies the cast is stacked with recognizable names, all of whom were wasted. Freddie Prinze Jr. and Jennifer Love Hewitt voice the lead characters, while the likes of Malcolm McDowell and Eric Idle phone in supporting roles.

Garbage like Delgo should be filling landfills where it belongs.

As the world doesn't turn

The Day the Earth Stood Still

Director: Scott Derrickson
Stars: Keanu Reeves, Jennifer Connelly
Classification: PG
Rating:

TALIA SOGHOMONIAN
Metro World News

Back in 1951, the thought of aliens invading the Earth was flippant. The world was still recovering from the Second World War, the Cold War had set in and extraterrestrials were the new Germans.

Robert Wise's now-classic movie The Day the Earth Stood Still carried a timely anti-nuclear message, attempting to stretch the reigning fears of the time; the Cold War was setting in and the Korean War was just around the corner.

Almost 60 years later, in Scott Derrickson's remake, the global situation has changed, this time with an ecological message, the latest point of inspiration for screenwriters being global warming. From the latest Bond flick Quantum of Solace to The Transporter 3, raising awareness of the "unconventional truth" has been like a light bulb of a bright new idea.

But while Wise's original was an unconventional exercise, Derrickson's version seems clueless, reprising a "city under siege" story with in blockbuster format and some very bland characters.

Jennifer Connelly plays Helen, a microbiologist who is rounded up by the government one night, along with some fellow eggheads, when a giant space object seems headed straight to earth. Instead, it lands in Central Park and it turns out to be a glowing giant marble.

Out of it steps out a human-shaped alien who later morphs into Klaatu (Keanu Reeves), accompanied by an equally cold towering cold metal robot who seems lifted directly from Metropolis.

Keanu Reeves stars in the updated version of this sci-fi film.

On the web

- Visit *metronews.ca/movies* to see trailers for both Delgo and The Day the Earth Stood Still.

Klaatu is actually there to warn humanity that it's time to go, given that we're destroying the planet and the universe needs the planet to sustain life. But why warn us that they're going to destroy us?

The Day the Earth Stood Still is only about half the film it could have been. But its cowardly treatment of the political issue at its center kills it. We don't expect every blockbuster to carry a serious message, but the movie had the potential of Independence Day and instead turns out to be just a one-time distraction.

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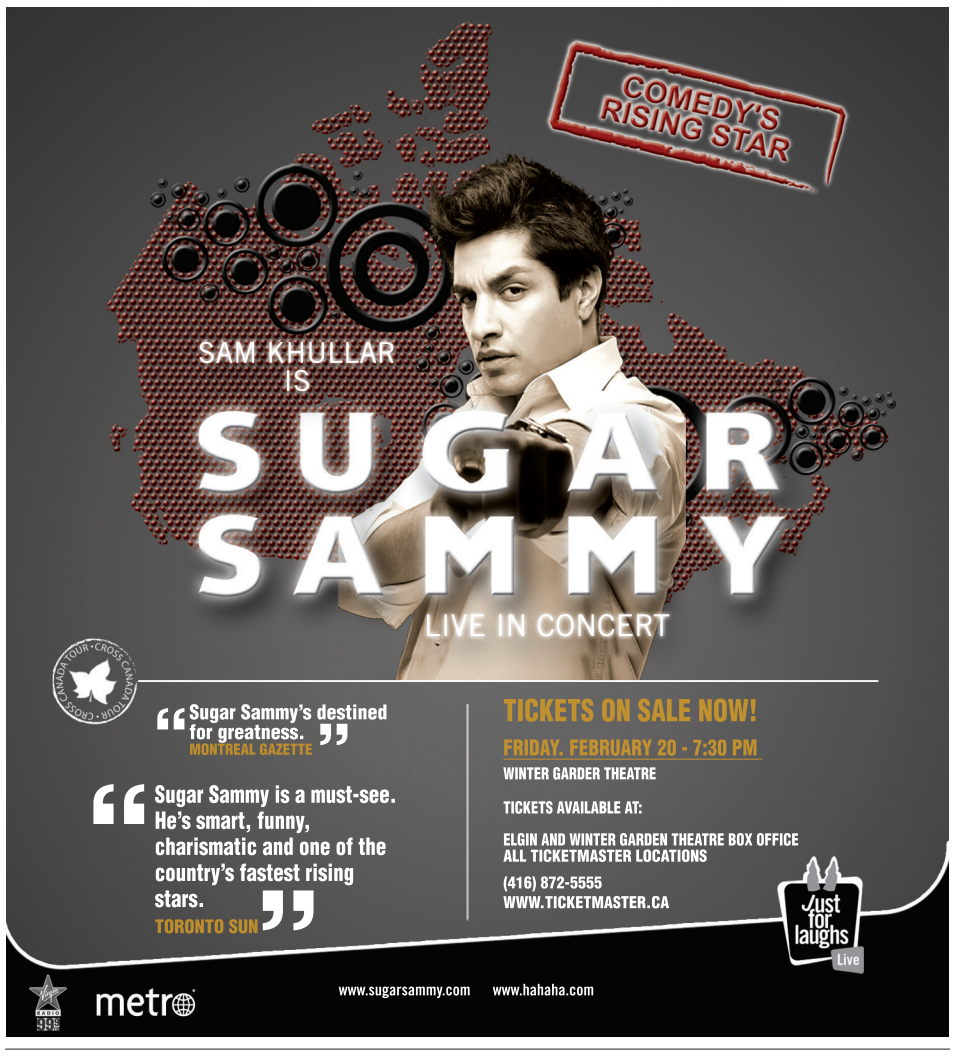

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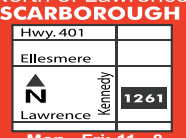

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Ruffalo drops out of film project

Mark Ruffalo, who's brother died tragically this month, has dropped out of the indie drama Greenburg, according to the Hollywood Reporter. He will likely be replaced by Ben Stiller in the film. **PEOPLE.COM**

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Celebrating Christmas with comfort film

Nothing Like the Holidays

Director: Alfredo De Villa
Stars: Debra Messing, Freddy Rodriguez
Classification: PG
Rating: ●½

REVIEW Like the plantains and empanadillas that adorn the film's Christmas dinner table, Nothing Like the Holidays is comfort food.

Though its title suggests uniqueness, Nothing Like the Holidays is exactly like most holiday films, with the notable exception of an almost entirely Latin cast.

John Leguizamo, Freddy Rodriguez and Vanessa Ferlito play the sons and daughter of Edy (Alfred Molina) and Anna Rodriguez (Elizabeth Pena). As families are wont to do in holiday films, all have congregated for Christmas — in this case, at their home in Chicago's largely Puerto Rican neighbourhood Humboldt Park.

Each brings their own problems to the table: marital troubles for Leguizamo with his gringo wife (Debra Messing), Rodriguez is just back from Iraq and Ferlito's character is a struggling actress. As you might guess, the fortunes of all will greatly improve over one trying holiday weekend.

Though the film apes every convention of Christmas films, it's hard to fault its sentimental conventions too much; so many holiday films have been white Christmases.

And the movie is welcoming. Occasional subtitles are flashed to help the Spanish-deficient keep up.

Messing is the minority here, an uptight businesswoman hoping to land her own hedge fund (pre-economic collapse, one assumes). At the dinner table, she plays the overly clueless outsider, asking, "Why is everyone fighting?" only to be informed no one's fighting, they're just "conversating."

It's at these moments that one realizes Nothing Like the Holidays was really meant to be a documentary showing the vibrant, festive Puerto Rican community of Humboldt Park. As a fictional film, though, it needs a story.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Yes we can' the message of movie

Movie **feature**

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Bradley Cooper will never forget the night Barack Obama won the presidency. He was in a hospital watching the elated event unfold on a battered television while shooting a movie called, appropriately enough, The Hangover.

Recently in Toronto to publicize his latest film, the former star of TV's Alias had been pondering the shifting winds of America.

"We've become more isolationist as a society but I think that's definitely changing. You can feel it, especially with the president-elect, there's a whole new energy (in America)," he said.

This new outlook couldn't be better signified than with the release of Jim Carrey's comedy Yes Man. A life-affirming tale about a slacker who's life has been stalled by complacency, Yes Man explores the journey he undergoes after agreeing to say "yes" to everything — whether it be guitar lessons, learning to speak Korean or to some brawler asking him if he wants a punch in the mouth.

Jim Carrey stars in the new film Yes Man.

"I didn't realize how much (the message of the film) was going to affect me," admits Cooper, who plays Carrey's best friend in the movie. "When I read the script I just thought 'What a cool hook – this guy's got to say yes to everything'."

"(And) it's so relevant. We've been watching a guy (Obama) with the mantra 'Yes We Can' behind him for two years … its really interesting, the timing with everything."

The comedy may mark a turn in Jim Carrey's mindset as well. After attempting to show fans a more serious side in last year's box-office fumbler The Number 23, Yes Man brings Carrey back to the form that once made him Hollywood's most popular funnyman.

"The reason why I wanted to do it was Jim," said Cooper.

"Watching him work in close proximity is kind of amazing. It's like watching one of the greatest comedians alive today for three months.

"I don't think I've worked with a guy that's that comedically gifted since Vince Vaughn (in Wedding Crashers)," Cooper said before stating that the two mentors have achieved success because "both of them have this uncanny ability to fail.

"They really are willing to make complete fools of themselves just to try. There's this abandon in their acting that gave me a lot of inspiration."

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Quote of the week

"I find Benjamin is about those universal things we all share — that 95 per cent that makes us all the same, wherever we are in the world. Our loves, our hopes, but also the loss that we all walk around with and hide very well, and the ultimate notion that we're all expendable. To me, it's a counterstatement to this divisive period we've been in, where we focused on the two, three, four, five per cent of ways in which we're different."

BRAD PITT TALKING ABOUT THE POSITIVE MESSAGE IN HIS NEW FILM, THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON — IN THEATRES CHRISTMAS DAY.

ROLLING STONE

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Academy Awards' no-nunsense films

InFocus

Richard Crouse

mrchaos33@hotmail.com

If Meryl Streep earns an Academy Award for her performance as the formidable Sister Aloysius Beauvier, a nun who confronts a priest after suspecting him of abusing an African American student in Doubt, she will join a short but prestigious list of actresses who have won gold playing nuns.

The first to win an Oscar for portraying a sister was Jennifer Jones in 1943's The Song of Bernadette; next, Susan Sarandon won for playing Sister Helen Prejean in Dead Man Walking.

Nuns have a long cinematic history and everyone from Ingrid Bergman to Mary Tyler Moore to Eric Idle has donned a habit for dramatic effect. Nuns have flown, sung and even been shipwrecked with Robert Mitchum on a Pacific Island, but my favorite big screen nun is Sister Assumpta in The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys.

The title sounds ripped from the headlines, but is actually taken from a 1994 novel by Chris Fuhrman.

Set in the early 1970s, the film revolves around a group of teenage boys obsessed with comic books. Their ringleader, Tim, played by Kieran Culkin, is a prankster who schemes to get revenge on Sister Assumpta, a joyless, strict nun with a prosthetic leg played by Jodie Foster.

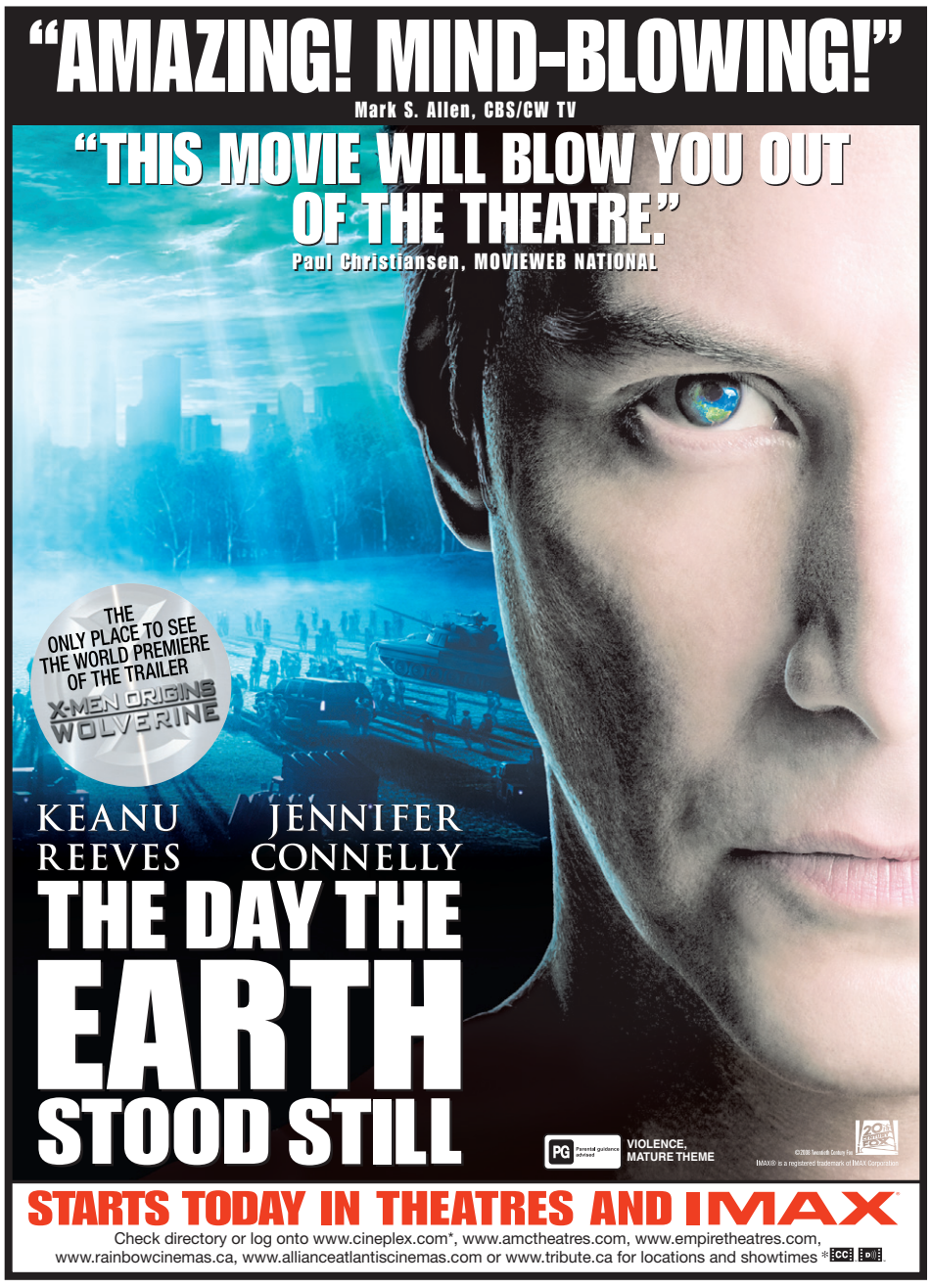
Learning most of what they know of the world from the superhero adventures written by Stan Lee, they believe there are only two types of people — heroes and villains. Sister Assumpta falls into the latter category and becomes the subject of a "blasphemous" comic book drawn by the boys featuring the evil motorcycle-driving Nunzilla.

The guys imagine themselves as the heroes who do battle with Nunzilla's sisterly minions. Once the comic book is discovered the boys are expelled from school, assured by Sister Assumpta that not only are they not welcome at school anymore, they likely won't be welcome in Heaven either.

Foster's Sister Assumpta spits hellfire in every sentence. She plays the sister as a strict disciplinarian who truly believes she is doing the best to save her students from damnation. Her peg leg is just a physical manifestation of her rigid personality. It's something different for Foster, who pulls it off with aplomb.

For more adventurous viewers, there are nunsploitation movies. Sometimes called Convent Erotica, these movies are not for the easily offended and have titles like Killer Nun and Behind the Convent Walls. Watch them, but don't forget to say ten Hail Marys afterwards.

Richard Crouse is the author of Son of the 100 Best Movies You've Never Seen and film critic for CTV's Canada AM.



Greco to appear at screening

Canvas director Joseph Greco will host a Q-and-A with audiences tonight and tomorrow following the evening screenings of his film at the Carlton Cinemas. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Four personal views of Toronto

Toronto **Stories**

Directors: Sook-Yin Lee, Sudz Sutherland, David Weaver, Aaron Woodley.
Stars: Gil Bellows, Samantha Weinstein, Ricardo Hoyos, K.C. Collins
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●

STEVE VEALE
for Metro Canada

REVIEW The Cabbagetown Monster. A lovesick criminal. Two misfits searching for romance. A homeless man fighting for his sanity.

These are the tales of Toronto Stories, written and directed by a talented quartet of Canadian filmmakers — who believed in this project so much that they worked for free.

This experiment allowed each one to create a very unique and personal vision of the people and places in Toronto. The wildly divergent styles may initially seem jarring — think of this as a collection of short stories written by different authors.

A little boy, with no identification and unable to speak English, arrives at Pearson International Airport and slips quietly into the city. The story segues into Aaron Woodley's Shoelaces; a 'coming-of-age' blend of fact and fiction highlighted by the slightly faded cinematic colours of Cabbagetown. His two young actors, while searching for a fictional monster, subtly suggest that true horror may actually reside in the homes with those well-manicured Leaside lawns.

Sook-Yin Lee's The Brazilian is an attempt to capture the semi-romantic blunders of a bizarre duo around Kensington Market. It's supposed to be "quirky and endearing." It isn't.

Windows by Sudz Sutherland is an après-crime thriller, set at St. Clair and Vaughan, where one man is determined to straighten out his life while his lovesick buddy escapes from prison to confront/threaten his former girlfriend.

David Weaver's moody segment closes Toronto Stories with an astonishing turn by Vancouver-born Gil Bellows as a homeless man who has relinquished his grip on reality due to a family tragedy. This is a perfect bookend to the film: Lost Boys is as dark and atmospheric (note the magnificent Union Station) as Woodley's opening is sunny and colourful.

Toronto Stories creates a unique and personal vision of the people and places in Toronto.

Film packs powerful punch

Canvas

Director: Joseph Greco
Stars: Joe Pantliano, Marcia Gay Harden
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●½

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

Movies don't come more personal than Canvas, writer/director/co-producer Joseph Greco's serious-minded exploration of the devastating effects unleashed by mental illness upon an otherwise tightly knit American family.

Loosely based on Greco's childhood, the low-budget picture may be somewhat predictable in its plotting, but nonetheless packs a powerful emotional punch.

Ten-year-old Chris Marino (most recently seen in Changeling) lives a quiet life with his blue-collar father Joe (Joe Pantoliano of, among other things, The Sopranos) and artist mother, Mary (Oscar winner Marcia Gay Harden) in sunny Florida.

But as Chris begins his new school year, discovering girls and seeking social acceptance, Mary begins to lose her battle with schizophrenia, throwing public fits of police-baiting rage and displaying crippling amounts of irrational paranoia.

When his beloved wife is hospitalized indefinitely for treatment, Joe copes by constructing a massive sailboat on the family's front lawn with the vague hope that a long-broken promise of sailing around the world might rouse Mary from her illness.

Meanwhile, the increasingly despondent Chris begins to suspect his otherwise stable dad may be slipping into madness himself.

There's both an anger — the screenplay takes several pointed stabs at the U.S. health care system — and honesty in Canvas that buoys the film and consistently keeps it from lapsing into cliché-ridden disease-of-the-week territory.

Greco's direction is unaffected, the pace is brisk and Joel Goodman's dreamy, melancholy score is refreshingly subtle, never overpowering the film's actors during the more volatile, showier scenes.

But the real strength of the picture rests with the always reliable Pantoliano (he, along with Harden also served as creative producers), who manages to sculpt a complex, searing portrait of a good man in the grip of unimaginable stress.

Nowhere is his craft more evident than in a gently observed, quietly disarming sequence in which Joe is caught flipping through photo albums, smiling at past pictures of his then-healthy wife before dissolving into uncontrollable tears. By the time Canvas sails into its lyrical, bittersweet conclusion, you just might find yourself joining him.

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MIDLAND AVE.
LAWRENCE AVE. E.

Hartnett wins libel damages
Hollywood actor Josh Hartnett has won $37,000 in libel damages from a British newspaper that claimed he engaged in "steamy shenanigans" in a public area of a London hotel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Movie **morsels**

Australia
●●●
REVIEW Australia is a beautifully filmed study of a vast land that — as one character says — has "a strange power." What director Baz Luhrmann should fret over is the drawn-out narrative that plays to melodramatic excess. Set during the outbreak of World War II, Australia features Nicole Kidman as Lady Ashley, widow of a mysteriously murdered cattle ranch owner. When confronted by her husband's rival with a takeover bid, Ashley hires a maverick stockman (Hugh Jackman) and joins him on a massive cattle drive across the outback.
Steve Gow/for Metro Canada

Bolt
●●●●
REVIEW Essentially, this tale about the unyielding loyalty of canines is as charming and heart-tugging as any Disney movie out there. Even better, the film excels in skill, depth and maturity equaling that of Wall-E and Ratatouille. Not really surprising since Pixar's brilliant chief John Lasseter is now running Disney's animation department as well.
Steve Gow/for Metro Canada

Changeling
●●●●
REVIEW Directed by legendary icon Clint Eastwood, Changeling tells the emotional journey of Christine Collins (Angelina Jolie), a single mother in 1920s Los Angeles who comes home to find her son missing. Following weeks of relentlessly searching, the police suddenly show up with her child, reporters in tow. Great. Only there's a catch: It ain't him.
Steve Gow/for Metro Canada

Four Christmases
●●●
REVIEW Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon star as a professional couple who always avoid their families during the holidays. After the film's worst plot contrivance traps them in the country and broadcasts their availability to their kin, the couple embarks on their dreaded four Christmases. Sure, this is no future Christmas classic, but it will be a movie that you won't angrily turn off when it starts airing on television during the holidays.
Phil Brown/for Metro Canada

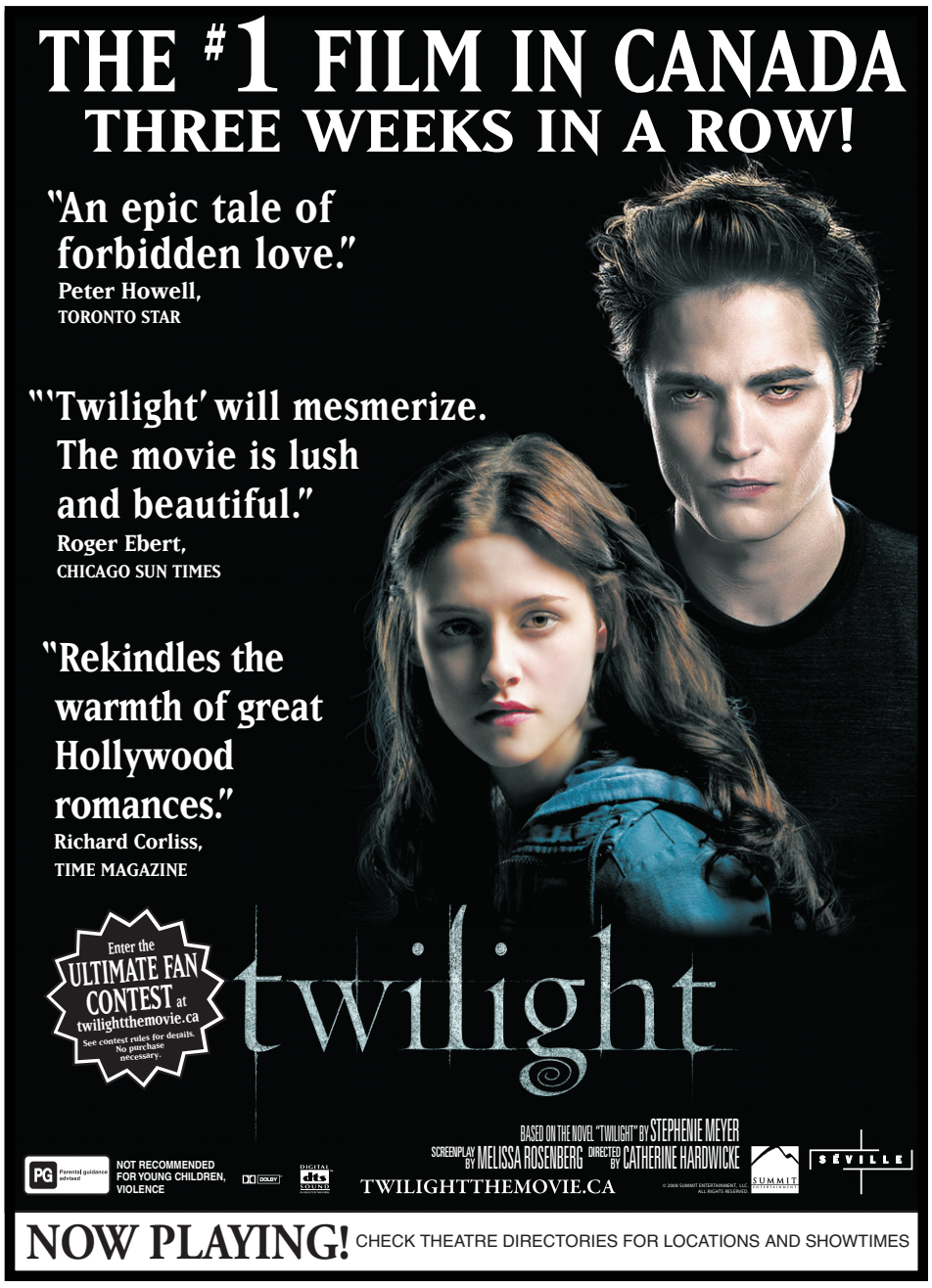
Quantum of Solace
●●●
REVIEW The movie starts literally minutes after its predecessor, Casino Royale, ended, with a pre-credit car chase that sums up director Marc Forster's brisk approach to the story. Action scenes are the meat of Bond movies. Most of what we see in Quantum of Solace is at least as good as the standards set in previous films; relentless, and more than a bit improbable. Daniel Craig's James Bond is still an excellent incarnation of the character.
Rick McGinnis/Metro Canada

RocknRolla
●●●½
REVIEW Like those acclaimed crime-dramas of the late '90s, RocknRolla explores a familiar criminal element of the London underground; namely those involved in a complex real estate scam gone wrong. There are far too many subplots too summarize, but rest assured Guy Ritchie's latest features the same narrative voiceover, cleverly crooked gangsters, and super-frenetic pacing of his earliest work.
Steve Gow/for Metro Canada

Role Models
●●●●
REVIEW Without its leading men — one uses the term loosely in this case — Role Models would be just another installment in the sub-Apatow genre, which is to say a comedy based on character and dialogue and the odd kick in the nuts. Paul Rudd and Seann William Scott are simply the best parts of a great cast that delivers a barrage of laughs.
Rick McGinnis/Metro Canada

Transporter 3
●●●½
REVIEW The latest entry in the lucrative but critically maligned franchise, simply called Transporter 3, and once more pits an iron jawed, black belt-sporting mercenary driver Frank Martin (Jason Statham) against a cabal of greasy, well tailored international baddies. And while the film boasts the same clunky narrative problems and distractingly dubbed European actors as the first two installments, I'm happy to report that the breathlessly-paced Transporter makes amends by delivering some of the most delirious action set pieces of this or any other year.
Chris Alexander/for Metro Canada

Twilight
●●
REVIEW Kristin Stewart stars as Bella, a young girl who moves to a small town and becomes instantly captivated by a classmate named Edward, played by Robert Pattinson, who is part of a very peculiar and insular family known as the Cullens. As Bella becomes more attracted to Edward, she discovers that the Cullens are a clan of vampires … but very safe emo-vampires who only drink animal blood and spend of most of their time silently emoting and looking pretty rather than preying on helpless victims. Thus begins an epic tale of forbidden love that has made the hearts of millions of teenage girls swoon.
Phil Brown/for Metro Canada



Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in red.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 12 TO THURS., DEC. 18. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

DOWNTOWN

BLOOR THEATRE
506 Bloor St., 416-516-2330

Ashes of Time Redux (14A) Fri 7 Sun 7 Mon 4:30
Beverly Hills Chihuahua (G) Sat-Sun 2:30
Burn After Reading (14A) Tue 7
Die Hard (STC) Wed 9:15
Elegy (14A) Wed 4:15 Thu 7
Home Alone (PG) Wed 7
Let the Right One In (14A) Fri 4:30 Sat 9:15 Mon 9:15
Passchendaele (14A) Sat 4:30 Mon 7 Tue 4:30
Serbian Film Festival (STC) Fri 9:30 Sat 7 Sun 4:30
The Signs of Zodiac (STC) Sat 12
W. (PG) Tue 9 Thu 4:15-9:15

CARLTON
20 Carlton St., 416-598-2309

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (14A) Fri-Sat 1:50-4:50-7:30-9:45 Sun 4:50-7:30-9:45 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:50-7:30-9:45
Canvas (STC) Fri-Sat 1:35-4:40-7:20-9:40 Sun 4:40-7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 1:35-4:40-7:20-9:40
Happy-Go-Lucky (14A) Fri-Sat 1:20-4-6:50-9:25 Sun 4-6:50-9:25 Mon-Thu 1:20-4-6:50-9:25
I Can't Think Straight (14A) Fri-Sat 2-4:30-7:25-9:55 Sun 4:30-7:25-9:55 Mon-Thu 2-4:30-7:25-9:55
I've Loved You So Long (French w/e.s.t.) (14A) Fri-Sat 1:30-4:10-7-9:30 Sun 4:10-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:10-7-9:30
Outsourced (PG) Fri-Sat 1:45-4:25-7:15-10 Sun 4:25-7:15-10 Mon-Thu 1:45-4:25-7:15-10
Religulous (14A) Fri-Sat 1:40-4:20-7:05-9:20 Sun 4:20-7:05-9:20 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:20-7:05-9:20
Synecdoche, New York (14A) Fri-Sat 1:25-4:05-6:45-9:15 Sun 4:05-6:45-9:15 Mon-Thu 1:25-4:05-6:45-9:15
A Touch Of Spice (Greek w/e.s.t.) (STC) Fri-Sat 1:55-4:45-7:10-9:50 Sun 4:45-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 1:55-4:45-7:10-9:50

CUMBERLAND CINEMAS
159 Cumberland Ave., 416-646-0444

A Christmas Tale (French w/e.s.t.) (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:40-8
Rachel Getting Married (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:15-10:15
The Reader (14A) Fri-Thu 1-1:30-4-4:30-7-7:30-10-10:30

SCOTIABANK THEATRE
259 Richmond St., 416-368-5600

Bolt (G) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:20-6:50-9:20
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-3:50-7-9:50 No Passes Fri-Thu 2-5-7:50-10:35
The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:15
Frost/Nixon (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:20-10:20
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:10-6:25-9:10
Milk (STC) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:30-6:45-10
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4-7:05-9:55
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Tue 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:30 Wed 1:30-4-10:30 Thu 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:30 Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40-6:30-9:30
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 2-4:50-8-10:35
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:20-6:40-9:40 Fri-Sat 1:20-4:10-7:10-10:10 Sun 1:20-4:10 Mon 1:20-4:10-10:20 Tue-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:10-10:10
WWE: Armageddon (STC) Sun 8
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri-Wed 12:25-3-6:20-9 Thu 12:25-3-9:30

MARKET SQUARE
80 Front St., 416-494-9371

Australia (PG) Fri 12:45-4-7:20-10:30 Sat-Thu 12:45-4-7:20
Bolt (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:40-4:50-7-9:10
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Fri 1-3:40-6:50-9:15-11:30 Sat-Wed 1-3:40-6:50-9:15 Thu 3:40-6:50-9:15 Thu 1
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 1:10-3:10-5:10-7:25-9:25-11:20 Sat-Thu 1:10-3:10-5:10-7:25-9:25
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 1:15-3:50-7:10-9:30-11:50 Sat-Thu 1:15-3:50-7:10-9:30
Twilight (PG) Fri 1:20-4:10-6:45-9:20-11:45 Sat-Thu 1:20-4:10-6:45-9:20

THE ROYAL
608 College St., 416-466-4400

Toronto Stories (STC) Fri-Sat 7-9:30 Sun 4:30-7-9 Tue-Thu 7-9

VARSITY
55 Bloor St. W., 416-961-6304

Australia (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:30-8
Doubt (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40-6:30-9:20 Fri-Thu 1:05-4:25-7:15-9:55
Frost/Nixon (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-12:40-3:10-4-6:40-7:10-9:40-10:15
Milk (STC) Fri-Sun 12-12:20-3:20-3:50-6:20-7-9:50-10:20 Mon 12-12:20-3:20-3:50-7-10:20 Tue 12-12:20-3:20-3:50-6:20-7-9:50-10:20 Wed 12-12:20-3:50-7-9:50-10:20 Thu 12-12:20-3:20-3:50-7-9:50-10:20 Fri-Tue 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:35 Wed 12:45-3:35 Thu 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:35
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:50-9:30 Fri 6:35-9:15 Sat-Wed 1:15-4:05-6:35-9:15 Thu 4:05-6:35-9:15
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Tue 1:10-4:10-7:20-10:10 Wed 1:10-4:05-7:20-10:10 Thu 1:10-4:10-7:20-10:10 Fri-Thu 12:15-3:15-6:25-9:05

CANADA SQUARE
2200 Yonge St., 416-646-0444

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (14A) Fri 4:10-6:30-9 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:10-6:30-9 Mon-Thu 4:10-6:30-9
Changeling (14A) Fri 4-7-10 Sat-Sun 1-4-7-10 Mon-Thu 4-7-10
Delgo (PG) Fri 4:30-6:40 Sat-Sun 2-4:30-6:40 Mon-Thu 4:30-6:40
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri 4:40-7:20-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:40-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:20-9:50
I've Loved You So Long (French w/e.s.t.) (14A) Fri 4:20-6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:20-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 4:20-6:50-9:20
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri 5-7:30-10 Sat-Sun 2:10-5-7:30-10 Mon-Thu 5-7:30-10
Rachel Getting Married (14A) Fri 4:05-6:45-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:05-6:45-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:05-6:45-9:40
RocknRolla (14A) Fri-Thu 9:10
Role Models (14A) Fri 4:50-7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:50-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:10-9:30

MT. PLEASANT THEATRE
675 Mt.Pleasant Rd., 416-489-8484

Passchendaele (14A) Fri-Sat 9:30 Sun 7 Wed-Thu 7
Tell No One (14A) Fri-Sat 6:45 Sun 4:05 Tue 7

REGENT THEATRE
551 Mt.Pleasant Rd., 416-480-9884

The Secret Life of Bees (14A) Fri-Sat 9 Sun 7 Thu 9
Triage: Dr. James Orbinski's Humanitarian Dilemma (STC) Fri-Sat 7 Sun 4:30 Tue-Thu 7

YONGE-EGLINTON CENTRE
2300 Yonge St., 416-544-1236

Australia (PG) Fri-Wed 12:45-4:20-8 Thu 12:45-4:20-9:30
Bolt (G) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:10-9:40
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:50-9:45 No Passes Fri-Thu 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:10
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 4:10-7:30-10 Sat-Thu 1:30-4:10-7:30-10
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Wed 1:05-3:40-6:40-9:30 Thu 1:05-3:40-6:40-9:50
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Thu 3:30-10:20
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:15-7:40-10:30
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-7:50 Mon 12:50 Tue-Thu 12:50-7:50
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:55

YONGE & DUNDAS 24
10 Dundas St East, 416-977-2642

Australia (PG) Fri 12:45-1:30-3:30-4:30-5:15-7-8-9-10:30 Sat-Sun 11:45-12:45-1:30-3:30-4:30-5:15-7-8-9-10:30 Mon-Thu 3:30-4:30-5:15-7-8-9-10:30
Body of Lies (14A) Fri 1:45-4:35-7:30-10:35 Sat-Sun 10:50-1:45-4:35-7:30-10:35 Mon-Thu 1:45-4:35-7:30-10:35
Burn After Reading (14A) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:15-4:35-7:05-9:35 Mon-Thu 2:15-4:35-7:05-9:35
Changeling (14A) Fri-Sun 1-4-7-10 Mon-Thu 4-7-10
Death Race (18A) Tue-Wed 2:05-4:50
Delgo (PG) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:30-5-7:15-9:30 Mon-Thu 2:30-5-7:15-9:30
Eagle Eye (14A) Fri-Thu 1:55-4:40-7:20-10
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 1:30-2-2:30-3-3:45-4:30-5-5:30-6-7-7:30-8-8:30-9:15-9:45-10:15-10:45 Sat-Sun 11-11:45-12-12:30-1:30-2-2:30-3-3:45-4:30-5-5:30-6-7-7:30-8-8:30-9:15-9:45-10:15-10:45 Mon-Thu 2-2:30-3-3:45-4:30-5-5:30-6-7-7:30-8-8:30-9:15-9:45-10:15-10:45
JCVD (14A) Fri 2-5:30-8-10:15 Sat-Sun 11:30-2-5:30-8-10:15 Mon-Thu 2-5:30-8-10:15
Let the Right One In (14A) Fri-Sun 12-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:20 Mon-Thu 2:35-5:10-7:45-10:20
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Special Engagement Fri 1:10-2:10-3:10-4:10-5:10-6:10-7:10-8:10-9:10-10:10-10:45 Special Engagement Sat 10:45-12:10-1:10-2:10-3:10-4:10-5:10-6:10-7:10-8:10-9:10-10:10-10:45 Special Engagement Sun 11:10-12:10-1:10-2:10-3:10-4:10-5:10-6:10-7:10-8:10-9:10-10:10-10:45 Mon-Tue 2:10-3:10-4:10-5:10-6:10-7:10-8:10-9:10-10:10-10:45 Wed-Thu 2:10-3:10-4:10-6:10-7:10-9:10-10:10-10:45
Rachel Getting Married (14A) Fri 1:25-4:45-7:40-10:40 Sat-Sun 10:45-1:25-4:45-7:40-10:40 Mon-Tue 2:10-4:45-7:40-10:40 Wed 2:10-10:40 Thu 2:10-4:45-7:40-10:40
RocknRolla (14A) Fri 2:05-4:40-7:15-9:45 Sat-Sun 11:25-2:05-4:40-7:15-9:45 Mon-Wed 2:05-4:40-7:15-9:45 Thu 2:05-9:45
Role Models (14A) Fri 1:45-2:45-4:20-5:15-7:10-8:10-9:50-10:30 Sat-Sun 10:55-11:40-1:45-2:45-4:20-5:15-7:10-8:10-9:50-10:30 Mon-Thu 1:45-2:45-4:20-5:15-7:10-8:10-9:50-10:30
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri 1:20-2:20-4:05-5:05-6:50-7:50-9:40-10:40 Sat-Sun 11:15-1:20-2:20-4:05-5:05-6:50-7:50-9:40-10:40 Mon-Thu 2:20-4:05-5:05-6:50-7:50-9:40-10:40
Synecdoche, New York (14A) Fri 2:05-4:50-7:35-10:25 Sat-Sun 11:05-2:05-4:50-7:35-10:25 Mon 2:05-4:50-7:35-10:25 Tue-Wed 7:35-10:25 Thu 2:05-4:50-7:35-10:25

WEST END

ALBION CINEMAS
1530 Albion Rd., 416-742-3456

Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (STC) Fri 2:15-3:30-5:45-7-9:15-10:30 Sat 12-2:15-3:30-5:45-7-9:15-10:30-12:15 Sun 12-2:15-3:30-5:45-7-9:15-10:30 Mon-Thu 2:30-3:45-5:45-7-9:15

QUEENSWAY
1025 The Queensway, 416-503-0424

Australia (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-4:15-8:10
Bolt (G) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:45 Fri-Thu 1:40-4:35-7:25-10:05
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:40-6:30
Changeling (14A) Fri-Thu 9:30
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:50-1:30-4-4:30-6:50-7:30-9:50-10:30
Delgo (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05-6:55
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 1:10-2:15-3:55-5-6:35-7:40-9:15-10:10 Sat 1:10-3:55-5-6:35-7:40-9:15-10:10 Sun 1:10-2:15-3:55-5-6:35-9:15 Mon-Thu 1:10-2:15-3:55-5-6:35-7:40-9:15-10:10
Frost/Nixon (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:50-7-10:15
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:30-6:20-9
Milk (STC) Fri-Thu 12-3:10-6:25-9:35
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:25-7:15-10
Nutcracker/Casse-Noisette (STC) Sat 2
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Thu 9:20
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-6:45-7:20-9:40-10:20
Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 12:05-3-6:15-9:10
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:35-7:10-10:25
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:10-7:05-9:55
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:25-6:40-9:45
WWE: Armageddon (STC) Sun 8

WOODBINE CENTRE
500 Rexdale Blvd., 416-213-1998

Bolt (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:40-4:55-7:05-9:15
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-7-9:30
Delgo (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-2:50-5-7:05
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:10-5:20-7:30-9:40
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 12:40-2:50-5-7:05-9:10
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-2:45-5:05-7:25-9:35
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Thu 1-4-6:45-9:15
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 9:10
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:50-9:25

EAST END

BEACH CINEMAS
1651 Queen St. E., 416-699-5971

Australia (PG) Fri-Thu 8
Bolt (G) Fri 5-7:20-9:40 Sat-Sun 2:15-5-7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:40
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri 4:15-7-10 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:20-4:15-7-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 7-10
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 4:45-7:30-10:10 Sat-Sun 2-4:45-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:30-10:10
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 4:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 4-7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:40-4-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30
Twilight (PG) Fri 3:50-6:45-9:50 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:45-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:50

FOX THEATRE
2236 Queen St. E., 416-691-7330

Listings not available at press time.

NORTH YORK

SHEPPARD GRANDE
4861 Yonge St., 416-590-9974

Adam's Wall (PG) Fri-Thu 9:40
Australia (PG) Fri 4-7:45 Sat-Sun 12:30-4-7:45 Mon-Thu 4-7:45
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (14A) Fri 4:10-6:30-9 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:10-6:30-9 Mon-Thu 4:10-6:30-9
Changeling (14A) Fri-Sat 4-7:15-10:15 Sun 12:30-3:40-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:50-9:50
Delgo (PG) Fri 4:40-7:10 Sat-Sun 2-4:40-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:10
Milk (STC) Fri 3:50-7:10 Sat 1-3:50-7:10 Sun 1-3:50-7-9:55 Mon-Thu 3:50-7-9:55
Nutcracker/Casse-Noisette (STC) Sat 2
Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Fri 5-8:45 Sat-Sun 1:30-5-8:45 Mon-Thu 5-8:45
Rachel Getting Married (14A) Fri 3:45-6:20-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:45-6:20-9:15 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:20-9:15
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri 3:30-4:20-6:40-7:20-9:30-10:15 Sat 12:40-1:20-3:30-4:20-6:40-7:20-9:30-10:15 Sun 12:40-1:20-3:30-4:20-6:40-7:20-9:30-10 Mon-Thu 3:30-4:20-6:40-7:20-9:30-10
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 4:30-7:30-10:10 Sat 1:50-4:30-7:30-10:10 Sun 1:50-4:30-7:30-10 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:30-10

EMPRESS WALK
5095 Yonge St., 416-223-9550

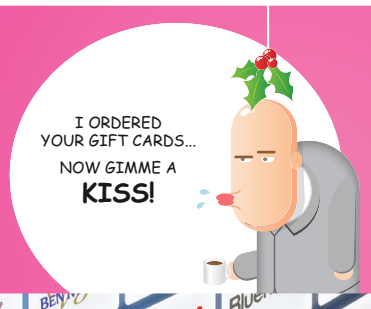
Bolt (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 5:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3:25-5:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 5:30
Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:40-7-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:40-4:40-7-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:40-7-9:20
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:10-5:15-7:20-8-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:10-2:15-4:10-5:15-7:20-8-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:10-5:15-7:20-8-10:10
Four Christmases (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:25-7:15-8:10-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:25-4:25-7:15-8:10-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:25-7:15-8:10-9:30
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:15-6:30-8:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 1:15-4:15-6:30-8:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 1:15-4:15-6:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:15-6:30-8:50
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:05-7:05-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:05-4:05-7:05-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:05-7:05-9:40
Nutcracker (Ballet) (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1-1:30
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 4:20-7:30-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 4:20-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:20-7:30-10
Quantum of Solace (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:30-7:10-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:10-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:30-7:10-9:50
Twilight (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4-6:45-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1-4-6:45-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4-6:45-9:45
WWE: Armageddon (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 8

SILVERCITY YORKDALE 6
3401 Dufferin St., 416-444-3456

Bolt (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:45-6:45-9:30
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-4-7-10 No Passes Fri-Sat 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 No Passes Sun-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:15
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 2-5-7:40-10:15
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:30-9:15
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:05

7.
But the truth of my staff, I've bottled inside
A thick-skinned CEO, real feelings I hide
While emotion and offices don't mix easily
I consider you oddballs my family

8.
I'm a man at his desk maintaining mystique
Ordering your presents from The Gift Card Boutique!
There's a ton of stores to choose, over 250
Methinks you'll all agree, I'm pretty darn nifty!



Cineplex | Empire | AMC | Alliance Atlantis | Rainbow Cinemas | Independent

This week's new releases are highlighted in red.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 12 TO THURS., DEC. 18. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Sat 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20 Sun-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:10
Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:20-6:50-9:40
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:15-10:10
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:45

SILVERCITY FAIRVIEW
1800 Sheppard Ace. E., 416-644-7746

Bolt (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:45-7:20-10
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-4-7:30-10:15
Delgo (PG) Fri-Thu 2:15-5:15-7:50
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:30-7:10-9:40
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:45-6:40-9
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Thu 1:45-5-7:40-10:10
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7-9:50
Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 10:15
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:20-6:50-9:45
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30

SCARBOROUGH

COLISEUM SCARBOROUGH
300 Borough Dr., 416-290-5217

Australia (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:25-8
Bolt (G) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05 Fri-Thu 12-2:25-4:50-7:20-9:50
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 1-1:50-3:30-4:20-6:20-7:05-8:50-9:20 Sat 1-3:30-4:20-6:20-7:05-8:50-9:20 Sun 1-1:50-3:30-4:20-7:05-9:20 Mon-Thu 1-1:50-3:30-4:20-6:20-7:05-8:50-9:20
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-6:50-9:40
Nutcracker/Casse-Noisette (STC) Sat 2
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:20
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30
Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:40-6:35-9:25
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:35-7:25-10:10
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-6:40-7:15-9:45-10:15
Vaaranam Aayiram (in Tamil) (14A) Fri-Thu 2:15-6:05-10
WWE: Armageddon (STC) Sun 8

EGLINTON TOWN CENTRE
1901 Eglinton Ave. E., 416-752-4494

Australia (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:55-8 Mon-Thu 3:55-8
Bolt (G) Fri-Sun 12:40-1:05-3:35-4:30-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:35-4:30-7:10-9:50
Changeling (14A) Fri-Thu 6:25-9:45
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-1-3-4-6:30-7:30-9:15-10:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 4-6:30-7:30-9:15-10:15
Delgo (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:20-6:40 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:40
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Sun 12:15-12:45-2:45-3:45-6:20-7-8:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:20-7-8:50-9:30
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:15 Mon-Thu 3:25
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:30-6:15-9 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:40-9:55
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:30-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:50-9:40
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Sat 1:15-4:20-7:40-10:30 Sun 1:15-4:20-7:40-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:45-10:20
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Sat 12:20-3:10-6:35-7:05-9:20-10 Sun 12:20-3:10-6:35-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:35-7:05-9:20-10
Role Models (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:40-7:20-10:05 Mon-Thu 3:40-7:20-10:05
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Sun 12:55-4:05-7:35-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:05-7:35-10:10
Twilight (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:15-7:15-9:25-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:15-9:25-10:20
WWE: Armageddon (STC) Sun 8

401 & MORNINGSIDE
785 Milner Ave., 416-281-2226

Australia (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-4:05-8 Mon-Thu 4:05-8
Bolt (G) Fri-Sun 1:30-4-6:50-9:15 Mon-Thu 4-6:50-9:15
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-1:15-3:15-4:15-6:30-7-9:30-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:15-4:15-6:30-7-9:30-9:50
Delgo (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-2:45-5-7:25 Mon-Thu 3:20-6:10
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Sun 2-4:40-7:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:30-9:55
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:30-4:50-7:15-9:20 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:15-9:20
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:25-7:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:25-10
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Sun 1-3:45-6:40-9:45 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:40-9:45
Role Models (14A) Fri-Sun 10:25 Mon-Thu 9:25
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:30-7:50-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:15-10
Twilight (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:30-6:20-9:05 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:20-9:05

KENNEDY COMMONS 20
33 William Kitchen Rd., 416-335-5323

Body of Lies (14A) Fri-Sun 11:10-2-4:55-7:35-10:20 Mon-Thu 2-4:55-7:35-10:20
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-2:55-5:10-7:25-9:40 Mon-Thu 2:55-5:10-7:25-9:40
Changeling (14A) Fri-Sun 12:55-4-7:05-10:05 Mon-Thu 4-7:05-10:05
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11-11:45-12:30-1:30-2:15-3-4-4:45-5:30-6:30-7:15-8-9-9:45-10:30 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2:15-3-4-4:45-5:30-6:30-7:15-8-9-9:45-10:30
Delgo (PG) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11-1:15-3:25-5:35-7:40-9:50 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Mon-Thu 3:25-5:35-7:40-9:50
The Duchess (14A) Fri-Sun 11:55-2:25-4:55-7:25-10 Mon-Thu 2:25-4:55-7:25-10
Frost/Nixon (PG) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11:15-2-4:45-7:30-10:15 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2-4:45-7:30-10:15
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri-Sun 11:45-2:20-4:50-7:15-10 Mon-Thu 2:20-4:50-7:15-10
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Sun 11:05-1:15-3:25-5:35-7:50-9:55 Mon-Thu 3:25-5:35-7:50-9:55
Milk (STC) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11:20-2:10-5-7:45-10:30 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2:10-5-7:45-10:30
Passchendaele (14A) Fri-Sun 11:40-2:20-4:50-7:20-10:05 Mon-Thu 2:20-4:50-7:20-10:05
Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (STC) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11:30-3:05-6:25-9:50 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 3:05-6:25-9:50
Rachel Getting Married (14A) Fri-Sun 11:05-1:45-4:25-7:05-9:55 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:05-9:55
RocknRolla (14A) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:20 Mon-Thu 2:40-5:15-7:50-10:20
The Secret Life of Bees (14A) Fri-Sun 11:40-2:10-4:40-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 2:10-4:40-7:10-9:40
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11:30-1:30-2:15-4:15-5-7-7:45-9:45-10:30 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2:15-4:15-5-7-7:45-9:45-10:30
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri-Sun 1-3:20-5:40-8-10:25 Mon-Thu 3:20-5:40-8-10:25

WOODSIDE CINEMAS
1571 Sandhurst Circle, 416-299-3456

Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (STC) Fri 2:15-3:30-5:45-7-9:15-10:30 Sat 12-2:15-3:30-5:45-7-9:15-10:30-12:15 Sun 12-2:15-3:30-5:45-7-9:15-10:30 Mon-Thu 2:30-3:45-5:45-7-9:15

PEEL REGION

COLISEUM 10
309 Rathburn Rd., 905-275-3456

Bolt (G) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:10 Fri-Thu 1:10-4-6:45-9:30
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-1:30-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:30-9:20-10:15
The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:45
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Sat 6:50-9:40 Sun-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:50-10:05 Fri-Sat 1:40-4:40-7:50-10:20 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:40
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 12-3:15-6:15-9
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-7-9:55
Nutcracker/Casse-Noisette (STC) Sat 2
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:15-7:15-10:10
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Sat 1:45-4:45-7:40-10:25 Sun-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:40-10:10
Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:20-7:10-10
Twilight (PG) Fri 12:10-1-3:20-4:10-6:40-7:20-9:50-10:30 Sat 12:10-3:20-4:10-6:40-7:20-9:50-10:30 Sun-Thu 12:10-1-3:20-4:10-6:40-7:20-9:50-10:15
WWE: Armageddon (STC) Sun 8

COURTNEY PARK 16
110 Courtney Park Dr., 905-362-1210

Australia (PG) Fri 2:15-6-9:30 Sat-Sun 11-2:15-6-9:30 Mon-Thu 2:15-6-9:30
Bolt (G) Fri 2:20-4:40-6:55-9:15 Sat-Sun 11:50-2:20-4:40-6:55-9:15 Mon-Thu 2:20-4:40-6:55-9:15
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Special Engagement Fri 2:05-2:35-4:35-5:05-7:05-7:35-9:45-10:10 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:20-12:05-2:05-2:35-4:35-5:05-7:05-7:35-9:45-10:10 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2:05-2:35-4:35-5:05-7:05-7:35-9:45-10:10
Delgo (PG) Fri 2:40-5-7:25-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:25-2:40-5-7:25-9:35 Mon-Thu 2:40-5-7:25-9:35
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 2:30-3-4:50-5:10-7-7:30-9:25-10 Sat-Sun 12:05-12:40-2:30-3-4:50-5:10-7-7:30-9:25-10 Mon-Wed 2:30-3-4:50-5:10-7-7:30-9:25-10 Thu 2:30-3-5:10-7:30-10
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 2:40-5-7:30-9:50 Sat-Sun 11:55-2:40-5-7:30-9:50 Mon-Wed 2:40-5-7:30-9:50 Thu 2:40-5-7:30
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Special Engagement Fri 2:25-4:55-7:20-9:55 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:45-2:25-4:55-7:20-9:55 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2:25-4:55-7:20-9:55
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Special Engagement Fri 2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 12:10-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Mon-Thu 2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 2:10-2:45-4:45-5:15-7:20-7:45-9:55-10:15 Sat-Sun 11:40-12:15-2:45-5:15-7:20-7:45-9:55-10:15 Mon-Wed 2:10-2:45-4:45-5:15-7:20-7:45-9:55-10:15 Thu 2:10-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15
Role Models (14A) Fri 2-4:30-7:15-9:40 Sat-Sun 11:30-2-4:30-7:15-9:40 Mon-Thu 2-4:30-7:15-9:40
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 2-4:30-7:15-9:40 Sat-Sun 11:35-2-4:30-7:15-9:40 Mon-Thu 2-4:30-7:15-9:40
Twilight (PG) Fri 3:40-4:25-6:30-7:10-9:25-10 Sat 11:05-12:55-1:45-3:40-4:25-6:30-7:10-9:25-10 Sun 12:55-1:45-3:40-4:25-6:30-7:10-9:25-10 Mon-Wed 3:40-4:25-6:30-7:10-9:25-10 Thu 3:40-4:25-7:10-10

GATEWAY 6 BRAMPTON
5 Gateway Blvd., 416-444-3456

ORION GATE GRANDE
20 Biscayne Cr., 905-455-1590

Australia (PG) Fri 4:20-7:55 Sat-Sun 12:35-4:20-7:55 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:55
Bolt (G) Fri 3:25-6:45-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:25-6:45-9:25 Mon-Thu 3:25-6:45-9:25
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri 4:35-7:30-10:15 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:20-4:35-7:30-10:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:35-7:30-10:15
Delgo (PG) Fri 3:35-7:10 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:35-7:10 Mon-Thu 3:35-7:10
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 4:05-7:15-9:45 Sat-Sun 1-4:05-7:15-9:45 Mon-Thu 4:05-7:15-9:45
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 3:55-6:30-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:55-6:30-9:15 Mon-Thu 3:55-6:30-9:15
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri 4:45-7:25-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:45-7:25-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:25-10:10
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 3:40-6:40-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:55-3:40-6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:40-9:40
Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 9:30
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 4:10-6:55-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-6:55-9:55 Mon-Thu 4:10-6:55-9:55
Twilight (PG) Fri 3:50-7:10 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:50-7:10 Mon-Thu 3:50-7:10

SILVERCITY MISSISSAUGA
3055 Vega Blvd., 905-569-3373

Australia (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-5-7:50-9 Mon-Thu 5-7:50-9
Bolt (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:40-9:20 Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30-10 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:30-10
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (14A) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:20-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:20-6:50-9:40
Delgo (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:10-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:20-9:50
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-1:40-3:50-4:50-7-7:40-9:30-10:05 Mon-Thu 3:50-4:50-7-7:40-9:30-10:05
Frost/Nixon (PG) Fri-Sun 1-4-7:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 4-7:10-10:10
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-2-3:40-4:40-6:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 3:40-4:40-6:30-9:10

SQUARE ONE
100 City Centre Dr., 905-275-2640

Australia (PG) Fri 1:10-2-4:50-5:30-8:15-9:15 Sat 1:10-4:50-5:30-8:15-9:15 Sun-Wed 1:10-2-4:50-5:30-8:15-9:15 Thu 2-4:50-5:30-8:15-9:15
Beverly Hills Chihuahua (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:40
Chakk de Phatte (STC) Fri-Sun 1:25-4:30-8 Sub-Titled Mon 1:25-4:30-8 Tue-Thu 1:25-4:30-8
Changeling (14A) Fri 1:05-4:10-7:10-10:10 Sat-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:10-10:10
Delgo (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:10-5:20-7:40
Hassan and Morcos (STC) Fri-Thu 6:30-9:10
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:20-7
Nutcracker (Ballet) (STC) No Passes Sat 1
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 1-1:50-3:50-4:40-6:40-7:30-9:30-10:20
Synecdoche, New York (14A) Fri-Thu 9:45
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 10 Fri-Thu 1:30-4-6:50-9:20

NORTH

5 DRIVE-IN
2331 Ninth Line, 905-257-8272

Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Sun 7:35 Tue 7:35
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Sun 7:30 Tue 7:30
Pride and Glory (14A) Fri-Sun 9:20 Tue 9:20
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Sun 9:35 Tue 9:35
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Sun 7:35 Tue 7:35
Twilight (PG) Fri-Sun 9:10 Tue 9:10

AURORA CINEMAS
15460 Bayview Ave., 905-841-1789

Australia (PG) Fri 4:20-8 Sat-Sun 12:30-4:20-8 Mon-Thu 8
Bolt (G) Fri 3:30-7:30-10 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-7:30-10 Mon-Thu 7:30-10
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri 3:40-7:15-10:15 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:20-3:15-7:15-10:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:15-10
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 4:45-7:20-9:55 Sat-Sun 2:15-4:45-7:20-9:55 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 4-6:40-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-6:40-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:15
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri 4:10-6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-4:10-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:55-9:30
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 3:45-7-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 7-9:45
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 3:50-6:45-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:45-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:40
Twilight (PG) Fri 3:40-6:50-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:50-9:50 Mon 6:40-9:50 Tue-Thu 6:50-9:50

COLOSSUS 19
3555 Hwy 7 West, 905-851-1001

Changeling (14A) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:40-6:50-9:55 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:50-9:55
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:45-1:45-3:45-4:30-7-7:30-10-10:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:45-4:30-7-7:30-9:40-10:05
The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:15-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:15-7:15-10
Delgo (PG) Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5-7:20 Mon-Thu 5-7:20
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-1:20-3:20-4:15-6:45-7:15-9:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 3:20-4:15-6:45-7:15-9:30-10:10
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:10-6:20-9 Mon-Thu 3:10-6:20-9
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Sun 12:10-3-6:15-8:40 Mon-Thu 3-6:15-8:40
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:25-7:35-10:15 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:35-10:15
Nutcracker/Casse-Noisette (STC) Sat 2
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Sun 2-4:50-7:50-9:40-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:50-9:40-10:10
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 12:40-1:10-3:40-4:10-6:40-7:10-9:15-9:45 Sat 1:10-4:10-6:40-7:10-9:15-9:45 Sun 12:40-1:10-3:40-4:10-6:40-7:10-9:15-9:45 Mon-Thu 3:40-4:10-6:40-7:10-9:15-9:45
Role Models (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:15 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:40-10:15
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:20-7:25-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:25-10:20
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:50-7:45-10:20 Mon-Thu 3:50-7:45-10:20
Twilight (PG) Fri-Sat 12:30-1-3:30-4-6:30-7:05-9:20-9:50 Sun 12:30-1-3:30-4-7:05-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:30-4-6:30-7:05-9:20-9:50
WWE: Armageddon (STC) Sun 8
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri-Sun 1:50-5-8-10:30 Mon-Thu 5-7:40-10:05

ELGIN MILLS 10
10909 Yonge St., 905-770-6998

Australia (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 12:50-4-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:20
Bolt (G) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:40-3-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:10
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Fri 7:15-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:30-7:15-9:45 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:20
Delgo (PG) Fri 6:45 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:15-6:45 Mon-Thu 6:45
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 7:20-9-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:20-7:20-9-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:10-9-9:20
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 6:50-9:10 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:10-6:50-9:10 Mon-Thu 6:50-9
Nutcracker (Ballet) (STC) Sat 1
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri 7:40-10 Sat 4-7:40-10 Sun 1:20-4-7:40-10 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:30
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 7:30-9:50 Sat-Sun 1-3:45-7:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:30
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:40-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:10
Twilight (PG) Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:45-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:15

FIRST MARKHAM PLACE
3275 Hwy 7 E., 905-474-5101

Australia (PG) Fri-Thu 8:45
Bolt (G) Fri 4:40-7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:40-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:05-9:30
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri 4:30-7:20-10 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:20-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:10-9:40
Delgo (PG) Fri 3:30-6:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30 Mon-Thu 6:30
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 4-7-9:20 Sat-Sun 1-4-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:50-9
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 3:50-6:40-8:50 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:50-6:40-8:50 Mon-Thu 6:35-8:50
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri 4:50-7:30-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:50-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:50
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 4:20-6:45-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:50-4:20-6:45-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:10
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 4:10-7:05-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:05-9:50 Mon-Thu 7-9:45
Twilight (PG) Fri 3:40-6:50-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:50-9:35 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:20

INTERCHANGE 30
30 Interchange Way, 905-760-1911

Australia (PG) Fri 2:30-3-4:15-5:50-6:30-7:45-9:15-10 Sat-Sun 11-11:30-12:45-2:30-3-4:15-5:50-6:30-7:45-9:15-10 Mon-Thu 4:15-5:50-6:30-7:45-9:15-10
Ballast (14A) Fri 1:50-4-6:45-9:10 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:35-1:50-4-6:45-9:10 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 4-6:45-9:10

Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in red.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 12 TO THURS., DEC. 18. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Beverly Hills Chihuahua (G) Fri 2:30-4:55-7:35-9:55 Sat-Sun 12:05-2:30-4:55-7:35-9:55 Mon-Thu 4:55-7:35-9:55

Body of Lies (14A) Fri-Sun 1:25-4:15-7:15-10 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:15-10

Bolt (G) Fri 1:30-3-4-5:15-6:15-8-9-10:15 Sat-Sun 11:15-12:30-1:30-3-4-5:15-6:15-8-9-10:15 Mon-Thu 4-5:15-6:15-8-9-10:15

Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) Digital Fri 2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45 Digital Sat-Sun 12-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45 Digital Mon-Thu 4:45-7:15-9:45

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (14A) Fri 2:45-5:15-7:45-10:05 Sat-Sun 12:25-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:05 Mon-Thu 5:15-7:45-10:05

Burn After Reading (14A) Fri 2:35-4:50-7:20-9:50 Sat-Sun 11:55-2:35-4:50-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:20-9:50

The Duchess (14A) Fri 2:25-5:05-7:40-10:10 Sat-Sun 11:40-2:25-5:05-7:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:05-7:40-10:10

Lakeview Terrace (14A) Fri 2:10-4:40-7:10-9:45 Sat-Sun 11:45-2:10-4:40-7:10-9:45 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:10-9:45

Milk (STC) Fri 1:45-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:30-9:30-10:15 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11-12:30-1:45-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:30-9:30-10:15 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 4:30-6:30-7:30-9:30-10:15

Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist (PG) Fri 2:20-4:25-7-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:10-2:20-4:25-7-9:20 Mon-Wed 4:25-7-9:20 Thu 4:25-7

Nights in Rodanthe (PG) Fri 1:40-4:05-6:25-9 Sat-Sun 11:20-1:40-4:05-6:25-9 Mon-Wed 4:05-6:25-9 Thu 4:05-6:25

Passchendaele (14A) Fri 3:10-6:05-9:05 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:10-6:05-9:05 Mon-Wed 6:05-9:05 Thu 6:05

Pride and Glory (14A) Fri-Sun 1:25-4:10-6:55-9:55 Mon-Thu 4:10-6:55-9:55

Quarantine (18A) Fri 3:05-5:20-7:25-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:05-5:20-7:25-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:20-7:25-9:50

Rachel Getting Married (14A) Fri 1:50-4:55-7:40-10:15 Sat-Sun 11:10-1:50-4:55-7:40-10:15 Mon-Thu 4:55-7:40-10:15

Religulous (14A) Fri 2:15-4:35-7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 11:50-2:15-4:35-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:10-9:30

RocknRolla (14A) Fri 3:15-6-9:05 Sat-Sun 12:35-3:15-6-9:05 Mon-Wed 6-9:05 Thu 6

The Secret Life of Bees (14A) Fri 2-4:35-7:30-10:10 Sat-Sun 11:20-2-4:35-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:30-10:10

Sex Drive (18A) Fri 1:55-4:45-7:35-10:05 Sat-Sun 11:25-1:55-4:45-7:35-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:35-10:05

Step Brothers (14A) Fri 2:40-5:10-7:50-10:05 Sat-Sun 12:20-2:40-5:10-7:50-10:05 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:50-10:05

Synecdoche, New York (14A) Fri 1:55-4:40-7:25-10:10 Sat-Sun 11:15-1:55-4:40-7:25-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:25-10:10

Triage: Dr. James Orbinski's Humanitarian Dilemma (STC) Fri 1:45-4:20-7-9:40 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:05-1:45-4:20-7-9:40 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 4:20-7-9:40

Vicky Cristina Barcelona (14A) Fri 2:50-5:05-7:20-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:15-2:50-5:05-7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:05-7:20-9:40

PROMENADE MALL
1 Promenade Circle, 416-494-9371

Australia (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:30-8

Bolt (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-2:40-4:50-7-9:10 Mon 2:40-4:50-7-9:10 Tue-Thu 12:30-2:40-4:50-7-9:10 Mon 12:30

The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4-7:05-9:25

Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:15-5:20-7:25-9:30

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 12:50-3-5-7:10-9

Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:20

SILVERCITY NEWMARKET
18151 Yonge St., 905-953-2792

Australia (PG) Fri 4:15-8 Sat-Sun 12:30-4:15-8 Mon 8 Tue 4:15-8 Wed-Thu 8

Bolt (G) Fri 4:40 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:40 Mon 7:05-10:10 Tue 4:40 Wed-Thu 7:05-10:10 Fri 4:05-7:05-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:55-4:05-7:05-10:10 Tue 4:05-7:05-10:10

Changeling (14A) Fri 3:25-6:35-9:50 Sat 6:35-9:50 Sun 12:20-3:25-6:35-9:50 Mon 6:35-9:50 Tue 3:25-6:35-9:50 Wed-Thu 6:35-9:50

The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri 4-7-10 No Passes Sat-Sun 1-4-7-10 No Passes Mon 7-10 No Passes Tue 4-7-10 No Passes Wed-Thu 7-10 No Passes Fri 4:30-7:30-10:30 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 No Passes Mon 7:30-10:30 No Passes Tue 4:30-7:30-10:30 No Passes Wed-Thu 7:30-10:30

Delgo (PG) Fri 5-7:20 Sat-Sun 12:15-2:35-5-7:20 Mon 7:20 Tue 5-7:20 Wed-Thu 7:20

Four Christmases (PG) Fri 3:45-6:45-7:45-9:35-10:30 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-7:45-9:35-10:30 Mon 6:45-7:45-9:35-10:30 Tue 3:45-6:45-7:45-9:35-10:30 Wed-Thu 6:45-7:45-9:35-10:30

High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri 3:50-6:30-9:25 Sat 1:15-3:50-6:30-9:25 Sun 1:15-3:50 Mon 6:30-9:25 Tue 3:50-6:30-9:25 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:25

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 4:35-7:25-10:20 Sat-Sun 1:35-4:35-7:25-10:20 Mon 7:25-10:20 Tue 4:35-7:25-10:20 Wed-Thu 7:25-10:20

Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri 4:45-7:40-10:25 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:45-7:40-10:25 Mon 7:40-10:25 Tue 4:45-7:40-10:25 Wed-Thu 7:40-10:25

Nutcracker/Casse-Noisette (STC) Sat 2

Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri 4:25-7:35-10:05 Sat-Sun 1:25-4:25-7:35-10:05 Mon 7:35-10:05 Tue 4:25-7:35-10:05 Wed-Thu 7:35-10:05

Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 3:40-6:55-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:55-9:40 Mon 6:55-9:40 Tue 3:40-6:55-9:40 Wed-Thu 6:55-9:40

Role Models (14A) Fri 4:20-7:15-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:15-9:55 Mon 7:15-9:55 Tue 4:20-7:15-9:55 Wed-Thu 7:15-9:55

Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 3:55-6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:55-6:50-9:30 Mon 6:50-9:30 Tue 3:55-6:50-9:30 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:30

Twilight (PG) Fri 3:35-6:40-9:45-10:15 Sat-Sun 12:35-3:35-6:40-9:45-10:15 Mon 6:40-9:45-10:15 Tue 3:35-6:40-9:45-10:15 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:45-10:15

WWE: Armageddon (STC) Sun 8

SILVERCITY RICHMOND HILL
8771 Yonge St., 905-709-3199

Australia (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:30-8:15 Mon-Thu 4:30-8:15

Bolt (G) Fri-Sat 1-3:30 Sun 1-3:30-5:50 Mon-Thu 4:05 Fri-Sun 2-4:40-7:10-9:35 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:10-9:35

Changeling (14A) Fri-Sat 6:30-10:05 Sun 10:05 Mon-Thu 6:30-10

The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:50-4:25-7:20-9:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:25-7:20-9:50

Delgo (PG) Fri-Sun 1:45-4:15-7:35 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:35

Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Sat 1:40-4:15-7-9:30-10:05 Sun 1:40-4:15-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:10-7-9:30-9:55

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:20-6:20-8:30 Mon-Thu 4:10-6:20-8:30

Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-1:30-3-4:05-5:25-6:40-8-9:10-10:30 Mon-Thu 4:15-5-6:40-7:40-9:10-10:15

Nutcracker/Casse-Noisette (STC) Sat 2

Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Sun 1:20-3:45-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:50-9:20

Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 4-7:30-10:10

Role Models (14A) Fri 2:10-4:45-7:25-10:10 Sat 4:45-7:25-10:10 Sun 2:10-4:45-7:25-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:25-10

Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Sun 1:15-3:50-7:05-9:45 Mon-Thu 3:50-7:05-9:45

Twilight (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:40-6:55-10 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:55-10

WWE: Armageddon (STC) Sun 8

HALTON

SILVERCITY BURLINGTON 8
1250 Brant St., 416-646-0444

Australia (PG) Fri-Sun 12:15-4-8 Mon-Thu 8

Bolt (G) Fri-Sun 1:05-4:05-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30

The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-1:15-3:30-4:15-6:30-7:15-9:30-10:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:30-7:15-9:30-10:15

Delgo (PG) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:40-7:05 Mon-Thu 7:05

Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:20 Mon-Thu 7:30-10:20

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:20

Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri-Sun 1:25-4:25-7:25-10:25 Mon-Thu 7:25-10:25

Nutcracker/Casse-Noisette (STC) Sat 2

Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:30 Sat 4:45-7:45-10:30 Sun 1:45-4:45-10:30 Mon-Thu 7:45-10:30

Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 1-4-7-10 Sat 1-4:30-7-10 Sun 1-4-7-10 Mon-Thu 7-10

Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 10:05

Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Sat 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20 Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20 Mon-Thu 7:20-10:20

Twilight (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:10-10:10

WWE: Armageddon (STC) Sun 8

SILVERCITY OAKVILLE
3531 Wyecroft Road, 905 827-7173

Australia (PG) Fri-Sun 1-4:50-8:30 Mon-Thu 8:30

Bolt (G) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:10-6:50-9:10 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:10

The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:20-4-7:20-9:55 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:20-9:55

Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:10-7:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:50 Fri-Sun 2-5-7:40-10:20 Mon-Thu 7:40-10:20

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:20-6:55-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:55-9:20

Nutcracker/Casse-Noisette (STC) Sat 2

Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri 2-4:30-7:15-10 Sat 4:30-7:15-10 Sun 2-4:30-7:15-10 Mon-Thu 7:15-10

Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:40-10:15 Mon-Thu 7:40-10:15 Fri-Sun 1-4-6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:40

Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:50-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:40

Twilight (PG) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:40-7:25-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:25-10:10 Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:10-10:10

SILVERCITY BRAMPTON
50 Great Lakes, 905-789-6797

Australia (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-4:35-8:30 Mon-Thu 4:35-8:30

Bolt (G) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:10 Mon-Thu 3:10 Fri-Sun 1-4-6:55-9:40 Mon-Thu 4-6:55-9:40

Chakk de Phatte (In Punjabi) (STC) Fri-Sun 1:50-5:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 5:30-9:10

The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:25-3:25-6:25-9:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:25-6:25-9:20 No Passes Fri-Sun 1:25-4:20-7:15-10:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:20-7:15-10:15

Four Christmases (PG) Fri 12:40-1:40-3:20-4:15-6:10-7-9-9:45 Sat 1:40-3:20-4:15-6:10-7-9-9:45 Sun 12:40-1:40-3:20-4:15-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 3:20-4:15-6:10-7-9-9:45

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:45-6:30-9:15 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:30-9:15

Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri-Sun 1:05-3:55-7:05-10 Mon-Thu 3:55-7:05-10

Nutcracker/Casse-Noisette (STC) Sat 2

Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Sun 2-4:45-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:30-10:10

Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 1:20-4:25-7:25-10:20 Sat 12:20-4:30-7:25-10:20 Sun 1:20-4:25-7:25-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:25-10:20

Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Fri-Sun 12:45-4:50-8:55 Mon-Thu 4:50-8:55

Role Models (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:30

Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:40-7:40-10:30 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:40-10:30

Twilight (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-6:40-7:20-9:50-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:10-6:40-7:20-9:50-10:25

WWE: Armageddon (STC) Sun 8

WINSTON CHURCHILL
2081 Winston Park Dr. Oakville, 905-829-2009

Changeling (14A) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:45-7:05-10:15

The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Special Engagement Fri 12-1:15-2-2:45-4-4:45-5:30-6:45-7:30-8:15-9:30-10:15-11 Special Engagement Sat 10:45-11:30-12-1:15-2-2:45-4-4:45-5:30-6:45-7:30-8:15-9:30-10:15-11 Special Engagement Sun 10:45-11:30-12-1:15-2-2:45-4-4:45-5:30-6:45-7:30-8:15-9:30-10:15-10:45 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 12-1:15-2-2:45-4-4:45-5:30-6:45-7:30-8:15-9:30-10:15-10:45

Flash of Genius (PG) Tue-Wed 1:35-9:55

High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri 1:35-4:25-7:15-9:55 Sat-Sun 11-1:35-4:25-7:15-9:55 Mon 1:35-4:25-7:15-9:55 Tue-Wed 4:25-7:15 Thu 1:35-4:25-7:15-9:55

Milk (STC) Special Engagement Fri 1:05-4:05-4:45-7:05-7:40-10-10:35 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 10:55-1:05-1:45-4:05-4:45-7:05-7:40-10-10:35 Mon-Thu 1:05-1:45-4:05-4:45-7:05-7:40-10-10:35

Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Special Engagement Fri-Thu 12:15-2:40-5:10-7:35-10

Punisher: War Zone (18A) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 12-12:45-2:30-3:15-5-5:45-7:30-8:15-10:10-10:45 Mon-Thu 12-12:45-2:30-3:15-5-5:45-7:30-8:15-10:10-10:45

Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 1:30-4:15-7-9:45 Sat-Sun 11-1:30-4:15-7-9:45 Mon-Wed 12:45-2:15-3:30-5-6:15-7:45-9-10:30 Thu 12:45-3:30-5-6:15-7:45-9-10:30 Fri 12:45-2:15-3:30-5-6:15-7:45-9-10:30 Sat-Sun 11:35-12:45-2:15-3:30-5-6:15-7:45-9-10:30 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:15-7-9:45

Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (STC) Sub-Titled Fri-Thu 2-5:30-9

Rachel Getting Married (14A) Fri 1:50-4:35-7:20-10:05 Sat-Sun 11:05-1:50-4:35-7:20-10:05 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:35-7:20-10:05

Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3-5:40-8-10:25

Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri 1-1:40-4-4:40-7-7:40-9:50-10:30 Sat-Sun 10:45-1-1:40-4-4:40-7-7:40-9:50-10:30 Mon-Thu 1-1:40-4-4:40-7-7:40-9:50-10:30

Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 12:05-1:50-2:25-4:20-4:55-7:10-7:50-9:40-10:20 Sat-Sun 11:25-12:05-1:50-2:25-4:20-4:55-7:10-7:50-9:40-10:20 Mon-Thu 12:05-1:50-2:25-4:20-4:55-7:10-7:50-9:40-10:20

Twilight (PG) Fri 12:30-1:15-2:45-3:30-4:15-5:45-6:30-7:15-8:45-9:30-10:10 Sat-Sun 11:30-12:30-1:15-2:45-3:30-4:15-5:45-6:30-7:15-8:45-9:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 12:30-1:15-2:45-3:30-4:15-5:45-6:30-7:15-8:45-9:30-10:10

DURHAM

AJAX
248 Kingston Rd. E, 905-426-7772

Australia (PG) Fri-Thu 9

Bolt (G) Fri 7:10-9:55 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:20-7:10-9:55 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:55

The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri 7:05-9:45 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-7:05-9:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:05-9:45

Delgo (PG) Fri 6:30 Sat-Sun 12:35-2:50-6:30 Mon-Thu 6:30

Four Christmases (PG) Fri 6:35-9:15 Sat-Sun 12:55-3:25-6:35-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:35-9:15

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 7:45-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:40-2:55-5:15-7:45-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:45-9:50

Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri 7:20-10:05 Sat-Sun 1:05-3:55-7:20-10:05 Mon-Thu 7:20-10:05

Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 6:50-9:35 Sat-Sun 1-3:35-6:50-9:35 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:35

Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 7-10 Sat-Sun 1:10-4-7-10 Mon-Thu 7-10

Twilight (PG) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:30

PICKERING 8
1355 Kingston Rd., 416-646-0444

Bolt (G) Fri 7:20-9:50 Sat-Sun 12-4:10-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:20-7:50

The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri 7:15-10:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-3:40-7:15-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:40-8:40

Four Christmases (PG) Fri 7:10-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:10-9:45 Mon-Thu 6-8:20

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 6:45-9 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:10-6:45-9 Mon-Thu 5:30-7:40

Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri 7:45-10:25 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:15-7:45-10:25 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:25

Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 7:30-10:15 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:30

Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 7:40-10:20 Sat-Sun 2-4:40-7:40-10:20 Mon-Thu 6:10-8:45

Twilight (PG) Fri 7-10 Sat-Sun 1-4-7-10 Mon-Thu 5:10-8:10

WHITBY 24
75 Consumers Dr., 905-665-7210

Australia (PG) Fri-Sun 12-1:20-3:30-5-7-8:30-10:20 Mon-Thu 3:30-5-7-8:30-10:20

Bolt (G) Fri 12:15-1:20-2:40-3:30-5:20-6:15-7:35-8:30-9:50 Sat-Sun 11-12:15-1:20-2:40-3:30-5:20-6:15-7:35-8:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 2:40-3:30-5:20-6:15-7:35-8:30-9:50

Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) Digital Fri 2:10-4:40-7:10-9:25 Digital Sat-Sun 11:45-2:10-4:40-7:10-9:25 Digital Mon-Thu 2:10-4:40-7:10-9:25

Changeling (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-4-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:50

The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Special Engagement Fri 12-12:30-1:45-2:30-3-4:15-5-5:30-6:45-7:30-8-9:15-10-10:30 Special Engagement Sat 11:30-12-12:30-1:45-2:30-3-4:15-5-5:30-6:45-7:30-8-9:15-10-10:30 Special Engagement Sun 11:30-12-12:30-1:45-2:30-3-4:15-5-5:30-6:45-7:30-8-9:15-10 Special Engage. Mon-Thu 2:30-3-4:15-5-5:30-6:45-7:30-8-9:15-10

Delgo (PG) Special Engagement Fri-Thu 12:30-2:45-5:05-7:15-9:35

Four Christmases (PG) Fri 12:30-1:30-2:45-3:45-5-6-7:20-8:20-9:40-10:30 Sat-Sun 11:20-12:30-1:30-2:45-3:45-5-6-7:20-8:20-9:40-10:30 Mon-Thu 2:45-3:45-5-6-7:20-8:20-9:40-10:30

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 1:30-3:40-5:45-8-10:10 Sat-Sun 11:10-1:30-3:40-5:45-8-10:10 Mon-Thu 3:40-5:45-8-10:10

Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Special Engagement Fri-Thu 12:20-2:50-5:15-7:45-10:10

Punisher: War Zone (18A) Special Engagement Fri 12:40-2:15-3:15-4:45-5:45-7:15-8:15-9:45-10:45 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:40-12:40-2:15-3:15-4:45-5:45-7:15-8:15-9:45-10:45 Mon-Thu 2:15-3:15-4:45-5:45-7:15-8:15-9:45-10:45

Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 12-1:30-2-2:45-4:15-4:40-5:30-7:05-7:30-8:15-9:30-10 Sat-Sun 11:15-12-1:30-2-2:45-4:15-4:40-5:30-7:05-7:30-8:15-9:30-10 Mon-Thu 2-2:45-4:15-4:40-5:30-7:05-7:30-8:15-9:30-10

Role Models (14A) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:20-4:50-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 2:20-4:50-7:10-9:30

Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 2:15-4:40-7-9:20 Sat-Sun 11:45-2:15-4:40-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 2:15-4:40-7-9:20

Twilight (PG) Fri 12:15-1-1:45-3:25-4:15-4:45-6:15-7:15-7:45-9:15-10-10:30 Sat 11-12:15-1-1:45-3:25-4:15-4:45-6:15-7:15-7:45-9:15-10-10:30 Sun 11-12:15-1-1:45-3:25-4:15-4:45-6:15-7:15-7:45-9:15-10 Mon-Thu 3:25-4:15-4:45-6:15-7:15-7:45-9:15-10

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The bestselling albums at Amazon.ca
1. And Winter Came, Enya; **2.** Priests, The Priests; **3.** A Winter Symphony, Sarah Brightman; **4.** A Midwinter Night's Dream, Loreena McKennitt; **5.** Day And Age, The Killers. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Music

The Dears are reborn

Montreal band returns with new album following internal turmoil

ROB MCMAHON
for Metro Canada

PHOTO HANDOUT

The Dears play the Sound Academy tonight and tomorrow with Metric, Sebastien Grainger & The Mountains, Tokyo Police Club and others. For more details go to sound-academy.com.

What does a frontman do when faced with a band meltdown on the cusp of a new album?

If you're Murray Lightburn from The Dears, you pick up a video camera. The band's website now features The Gospel According to the Dears, a candid mini documentary chronicling the band's history. And making it wasn't easy — especially episode three.

"(At some points) people were firing off both barrels in my face … It was a little painful at times, but also cathartic, and put everything in its place," said Lightburn. "(The project) originated when I had a friend telling me maybe I should see some kind of counselor, because of how much the meltdown of the band affected me … Instead of seeing a counselor, I decided to try and understand the band."

Throughout the band's 13-year history, Lightburn has employed a tightly managed, product-oriented approach. Beginning with a blueprint, he works to fit everyone's parts in it, rather than "throwing things around." For example, he describes Missiles as a musical. Disclaimer is the prologue that dissolves into a scene shot after an explosion, before moving to the main conflict point at the end of Lights Off and then fading to the album's denouement. While this process results in rewarding music — the best Dears' songs combine mythological storytelling with intricate prog-rock arrangements — past members also bring up stifled creativity and high demands.

"I'm a noted control freak, no question — I'll confess to that any time of day — but I think I've learned … that it's OK to just allow something to happen. To close your eyes, spread your arms, fall backwards and see what happens," he said. "It's such a stressful thing, trying to control something as intangible as art can be."

After the recent conflict, Lightburn began writing songs for a solo project, but as the work progressed, decided they were better expressed as Dears' songs. Working with his wife and band partner Natalia Yanchak, he tried to chill out.

As heard in the relaxed saxophone solo of album opener Disclaimer, (before the song progresses into alternatively pleading and angry lyrics), the duo between Lighburn and Yanchak during Money Babies, and the ended outro of Saviour, the new songs work to avoid being overshadowed by the accompanying drama. Laughing, Lightburn describes them as big plates of mutton and gristle: He hopes listeners take time to chew over them.

Metro recommends

- **NEIL YOUNG, SUGAR MOUNTAIN:** Revisit 1968 and hear a playful, young Neil perform a solo set of future classics with coffee-house intimacy.

- **BRITNEY SPEARS, CIRCUS:** Dance club anthems and sassy love songs strut along with an electronic-pop sound that's not the same old BS.

- **LOS CAMPESINOS!, WE ARE BEAUTIFUL, WE ARE DOOMED:** Frenetic indie-pop with clever thematic twists, girl-guy harmonies and a heap of cheeky U.K. charm.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Yamagata's mountain inspiration

IAN NATHANSON
for Metro Canada

Secluding herself on a family-owned wooded property in Woodstock, N.Y., singer-songwriter-pianist Rachael Yamagata found her muse during a run down a mountain. Upon completing the run back up, a new song came to mind — Elephants — that ultimately set the tone for her latest two-CD effort, Elephants … Teeth Sinking Into Heart.

"I was there to get over a thousand things that had happened to me, but mainly a relationship breakup that really floored me," the Virginia-born, Philadelphia-based 31-year-old tells Metro. "This guy I was seeing sent me this card with elephants on it — the idea being that elephants never forget — and the phrase in the card said something like, 'Now let's just forget our relationship and not give up hope.' I had that on my mind as I went for a run to re-energize."

The follow-up to Yamagata's 2004 full-length debut, Happenstance, initially had been completed in mid-2007. But a change in management and a subsequent drop from parent label RCA put Elephants … in limbo. (Warner eventually signed her.) That, combined with the aforementioned breakup, the death of her stepmom and a Dominican Republic vacation whereupon she damaged an eardrum while deep-sea diving drove Yamagata to yearn for practically no human contact by the time she arrived in Woodstock.

"Writing (about 160 songs) in the middle of the woods up at weird hours like 4 a.m. with all these weird circumstances going on mixed in with this weird isolation, brought out songs in a style I've never written before," Yamagata says.

After "about 80 attempts to sequence the album," she finally decided to issue a so-described 'record in two parts.' For the hushed 10-song first disc, Yamagata explains, "I wanted this extra-intimate, whispery vibe that got increasingly lush with the addition of strings and such — there was something very cinematic about the whole thing."

For the loud, up-tempo five-song second disc, she adds, "I had all these rock-driven songs, very biting, gritty lyrics but with a tongue-in-cheek sense of humour about it all, no sugarcoating whatsoever."

WARNER MUSIC PHOTO

Rachael Yamagata plasy The Mod Club Theatre tonight.

TOP10 MOBILE DOWNLOADS
1 Live Your Life — T.I. ft. Rihanna
2 Right Now (Na Na Na) — Akon
3 My Life — The Game
4 Poker Face — Lady Gaga
5 Rock N' Roll Train — AC/DC
6 Hot N Cold — Katy Perry
7 Love Lockdown — Kanye West
8 Womanizer — Britney Spears
9 So What — Pink
10 Winter Wonderland — Ella Fitzgerald
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There's always more online at metronews.ca/music

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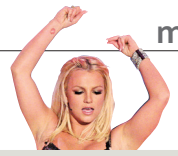

Britney tops chart
The top pop albums according to Billboard Magazine: 1. Circus, Britney Spears; 2. Fearless, Taylor Swift; 3. I AM...SASHA FIERCE, Beyonce; 4. 808s & Heartbreak, Kanye West; 5. Dark Horse, Nickelback. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Music

Fresh takes on Christmas music

SoundCheck

Alan Cross
alan@ongoinghistory.com

The way I see it, there are three types of people when it comes to the music of the holidays. There are those who love every single note of Christmas cheer. Then there are those who grind their teeth to the roots every time they're assaulted with yet another rendition of The Little Drummer Boy. And there's a third group — people like me who like new and unusual seasonal songs.

Some pathological urge demands that I collect non-traditional Christmas music. Here's a sample of what you'll hear in my house this holiday season.

• **White Christmas, Stiff Little Fingers:** If we must hear this song, the default version is from Belfast's best punk rock band. Available on Punk Rock Christmas (Rhino).

• **Run, Rudolph, Run, Lemmy and friends:** Lemmy (he of Motorhead and the interesting facial growths) teams up with Dave Grohl (Foo Fighters) and Billy Gibbons (ZZ Top) to offer a new guttural version of a secular classic. The album from which it comes also features contributions from Tony Iommi (Black Sabbath) and Alice Cooper. Available on We Wish You a Metal Xmas and a Headbanging New Year (Armoury Records).

Jack Johnson
GETTY IMAGES

• **Sometimes You Have to Work on Christmas (Sometimes), Harvey Danger:** Poignant tribute to those who don't get the day off. Especially meaningful to those who work in movie theatres. Available on: 20th Century Masters: The Millennium Collection (Universal).

• **A Christmas Duel, The Hives featuring Cyndi Lauper:** A Christmas song that starts with the line "I bought no gifts this year/And I slept with your sister" is guaranteed to attract attention. And what's Cyndi Lauper doing here? Available free at thehivesbroadcastingservice.com

• **Someday at Christmas, Jack Johnson:** Just the kind of carol you'd expect from a mellow surfer dude from Hawaii. Available on Brushfire Holidays, Vol. 1: This Warm December (Brushfire).

• **Dad Threw Up on Christmas Day, Arrogant Worms:** Happy, big-band arrangement from Canadian comedy group. Not for the squeamish. Available on Christmas Turkey (Arrogant Worms indie label).

• **Stop Giving Me Crap for Christmas, Bobby Gaylor:** Standup comedian and former Roseanne writer expresses some universal frustrations. I don't remember where I found this. I think it was one of those errant MP3s that end up in my inbox from time to time.

• **Did I Make You Cry on Christmas? (Well, You Deserved It!), Sufjan Stevens:** Prolific indie songwriter approaches the holiday season with a certain, er, honesty. Available on: Songs for Christmas, Vol. 4: Joy! (Asthmatic Kitty).

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com.

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- Bill Brownstein, *Montreal Gazette*

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Barton eyeing role in Ugly Betty

Former The O.C. star Mischa Barton looks set to be returning to TV screens — the actress is reportedly in talks to join the cast of Ugly Betty. IMDB.COM

Television

Anne revisited

Beloved character back on TV

Canada's red-headed sweetheart, Anne Shirley, returns to television this weekend with Anne of Green Gables: A New Beginning, but this time, the free-spirited character is not the same orphan fans may recall from the beloved books.

Early in the film, we learn that Anne's mother died under shameful circumstances and that Anne may actually have a father who is eager to rekindle their severed relationship. What unfolds is a reinterpretation of the imaginative child's origins, which writer, producer and director Kevin Sullivan says is based in large part on the journals of author Lucy Maud Montgomery.

"Lucy Maud was a gifted storyteller who was haunted all her life by her own childhood — a girl who had experienced the death of her mother at a young age and a poignant, lifelong estrangement from her father," Sullivan says in promotional material for the film.

"Anne became her true alter-ego."

In the original tale, Anne's parents die of fever when she is just a baby.

In this three-hour movie, the precocious child — played by a 12-year-old Toronto actress Hannah Endicott-Douglas — buries a different set of disappointments deep into her psyche, and they surface decades later in an adult Anne — played by U.S. actress Barbara Hershey — who has become a successful writer and raised a family of her own.

Hershey says she was initially unaware of the Green Gables tales and their devoted fanbase, but says she relished exploring the textured character of the older Anne, a woman troubled by her past and the unknown fate of her only son Dominic, who has yet to return from World War II.

"I loved the idea about owning the past in terms of the present and the freeing aspect of what she goes through in terms of her revelations," Hershey says in a telephone interview from Los Angeles, adding she based her physical interpretation of the older Anne on film legend Katharine Hepburn.

"I loved the idea about owning the past in terms of the present and the freeing aspect of what she (Anne) goes through in terms of her revelations."
Barbara Hershey, who plays an adult Anne

"It's almost like she earns the optimism she always had, you know. This is kind of a cleansing effect of this kind of knowledge about yourself."

The film also stars Oscar-winner Shirley MacLaine as matriarch Amelia Thomas, a character who pops up only briefly in Montgomery's first novel but has been shaped into a principal character for the film.

MacLaine's character is a wealthy and strong-willed widow who runs the prosperous lumber town, Marysville, N.B.

But like many others to come, her miserable demeanour softens as she gets to know the imaginative and playful Anne.

MacLaine says she was familiar with the tale before coming to the project, noting that her mother is from Nova Scotia. She says she's identified more with her maternal half during the past eight years of George W. Bush's controversial U.S. presidency.

"In travelling around the world... they ask me who am I, and I say, 'I'm a Canadian,' says MacLaine.

"I spent a lot of time in Nova Scotia, I'd love to shoot something there."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PHOTO COURTESY CTV

Twelve-year-old Toronto actress Hannah Endicott-Douglas plays the title character in Anne of Green Gables: A New Beginning which airs on CTV this Sunday.

FRIDAY

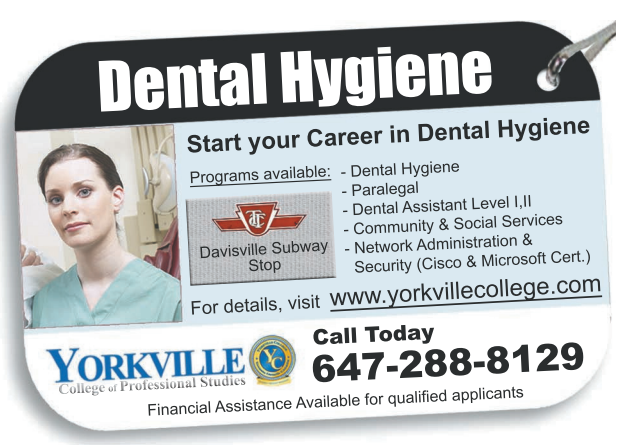
TO	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 12/12/08	265	353	2	TVO	Adventures in Architecture		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Heartbeat (N)		Allan Gregg	Film 101	Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	90210 (HDTV)		Life "Canyon Flowers"		NUMB3RS "Power"		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town		Doctor Who		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Songs of the Season		Lipstick Jungle (N)		Crusoe		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	The Rankin Family Reunion (N)		Supernanny (N)		Law & Order		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E News	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Deal or No Deal		20/20 (HDTV)		News (N)
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Frosty	Frosty Returns	*The Flight Before Christmas*		NUMB3RS "Power"		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Songs of the Season		Lipstick Jungle (N)		Dateline NBC		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Billy Graham Special		Supernanny (N)		20/20 (HDTV)		News (N)
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Wife Swap (N)		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Stargate SG-1 (DVS)		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Summer Wine	*Queen Rock Montreal* (1982, Documentary)		Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison				Wash. Week
news	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
sports	405	417	22	net	Hockeycentral	NHL Hockey Toronto Maple Leafs at Buffalo Sabres. (HDTV) (Live)					Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	NBA Basketball Toronto Raptors at New Jersey Nets. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
family	551	542	25	YTV	*Home Alone* ★★★ (1990, Comedy) Macaulay Culkin.				Smallville "Siren"		Dark Oracle	Mystery Hnt.	Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	Father of Pride	Robot Chicken	Life's a Zoo
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	*Jack Frost* ★★ (1998, Fantasy)			(9:11) *The Christmas Star* (1986)			(10:45) *Mr. Nanny* ★★	
cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami "Grand Prix"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami "All In"		Criminal Minds
	575	583	38	CMT	The Plan	Totally	Chevy Cross Canada Countdown (N)				Karaoke Star "Finale"		Doc
	616	521	39	SHO	The Best Years (DVS)		The Guard "Waheguru"		Testees	Kenny-Spenny	Webdreams	Webdreams	Sin Cities
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*The Prince & Me* ★★ (2004, Romance-Comedy)				Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy
	581	566	52	MTV	Girls-Latitude	After Show	Made Hip hop dancer.		A Double Shot of Love		The Hills	The Hills	After Show
	603	561	56	FOOD	The Main	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Chef Abroad	The Wild Chef	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Ace of Cakes
	300	601	301	M1	(6:55) Sanctuary		Sanctuary "Warriors" (N)		*Lost Boys: The Tribe* (2008, Horror)			*Night of the Living Dead 3D*	

SATURDAY

TO	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 12/13/08	265	353	2	TVO	National Geographic (N)		*Bad Day at Black Rock* ★★★ (1955)			The Interviews	*Prince of the City* ★★★ (1981, Crime Drama)		
	211	331	3	GTV	Billy Graham Special (N)		Doc Nancy is mugged.		Painkiller Jane		Kenny-Spenny	Kenny-Spenny	News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Na Luzie		Svitohliad	Objektyv	Russian Waves		Solo Flight		MADtv
	210	302	6	CBC	NHL Hockey Washington Capitals at Montreal Canadiens. (HDTV) (Live)						NHL Hockey: Canucks at Oilers		
	214	344	7	CITY	Survivorman (DVS)		Crusoe (HDTV)		*Out of Sync* (2000, Drama) Gail O'Grady.				News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	W-FIVE-Peace Warrior		*Last Exit* (2006, Suspense) Kathleen Robertson. (DVS)				Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	E News	The Soup	Soup Presents	Behind-Scenes	*Surviving Christmas* ★ (2004, Comedy) Ben Affleck.				News (N)
	-	387	16	CBS	Paid Program	Save-$1000	Eleventh Hour "Cardiac"		48 Hours-Boot Camp		48 Hours Mystery (N)		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	Paid Program	The Insider (N)	*It's a Wonderful Life* ★★★★ (1946, Comedy-Drama) James Stewart, Donna Reed.						News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Thomas	Paid Program	Funniest Home Videos		*Surviving Christmas* ★ (2004, Comedy) Ben Affleck.				News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	*Anne of Green Gables* ★★★ (1985, Drama) Megan Follows, Colleen Dewhurst, Richard Farnsworth.								News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Perfectly You	Paid Program	Cops (N)	Cops	America's Most Wanted		The Simpsons	The Simpsons	MADtv
	-	388	61	PBS	(6:30) Frontline "From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians"				Frontline "From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians" (Part 2 of 2)				
news	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs This Week (HDTV)		Special Investigations		Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley Breaks the News		Investigations
sports	405	417	22	net	English Premier League Soccer Teams TBA.				The Ultimate Fighter				Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN	E:60 (N)		Boxing (HDTV)				SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
family	551	542	25	YTV	A Flintstones Christmas Carol			He-Man, She-Ra Christmas		Invader Zim	Ren & Stimpy	Dark Oracle	Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Johnny Test	Looney Tunes Christmas		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	*Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*		
	556	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Han. Montana	*Call Me Claus* ★★ (2001, Comedy)			(10:33) *Bob the Butler*	
cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Identity"		CSI: Miami "Whacked"		CSI: Miami "10-7"		The Sopranos (HDTV)		The Sopranos
	575	583	38	CMT	CMT Star Crossed		Tara Oram's Christmas Carol		*The Sons of Mistletoe* (2001, Drama) Roma Downey.				Grand Opry
	616	521	39	SHO	About a Girl	Kink in Hair	*Recipe for a Perfect Christmas* (2005, Romance-Comedy)				*The Descent* ★★★ (2005, Horror), Alex Reid		
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*Feeling Minnesota* ★★ (1996, Comedy-Drama) Keanu Reeves.				*Housesitter* ★★ (1992, Comedy) Steve Martin.		
	581	566	52	MTV	MTV Live	After	Made Cheerleading.		MTV News	Girls-Latitude	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs
	603	561	56	FOOD	Food Network Holiday Special		Restaurant Makeover		Top Chef		Kitchen Nightmares		The F Word
	300	601	301	M1	*Hannah M*	*The Reef* (2006, Comedy), Rob Schneider			*Wild West Comedy Show*			(10:45) *The Ruins* ★★	

SUNDAY

TO	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 12/14/08	265	353	2	TVO	Palin-Sahara		The Choir "Boys Don't Sing"		*Oliver Twist* (2007, Drama) Timothy Spall.			The View From Here	
	211	331	3	GTV	The Simpsons	Family Guy	Survivor: Gabon (HDTV) (Season Finale) (N)				Survivor: Gabon (Live)		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Without a Trace		Friends	Solo Flight "Bonhoeffer"		Noi Oggi	Metropia	Metropia	Vamos-Balinho
	210	302	6	CBC	Red-Nosed Reindeer		*The Polar Express* ★★★ (2004, Fantasy), Nona Gaye				CBC News: Sunday Night (N)		fifth estate
	214	344	7	CITY	TBA	Two/Half Men	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Stylista		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	*Anne of Green Gables: A New Beginning* (2008, Drama) Shirley MacLaine. (DVS)						CSI: NY		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	Greatest Myst.	Greatest Myst.	Extreme Makeover: Home		*Recipe for a Perfect Christmas* (2005, Romance-Comedy)				News (N)
	-	387	16	CBS	60 Minutes		Survivor: Gabon (HDTV) (Season Finale) (N)				Survivor: Gabon (Live)		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	Football Night in America		(8:15) NFL Football New York Giants at Dallas Cowboys. From Texas Stadium in Irving, Texas.						
	-	386	18	ABC	Funniest Home Videos		*The Santa Clause 2* ★★ (2002, Comedy) Tim Allen.				Desperate Housewives		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Funniest Home Videos		Gossip Girl (HDTV)		*Deck the Halls* ★ (2006, Comedy) Danny DeVito. (DVS)				News
	-	-	28	FOX	King of the Hill	King of the Hill	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Family Guy	American Dad	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Cold Case
	-	388	61	PBS	Frontline: From Jesus to Christ		Members' Choice						Independent
news	500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom		Special Investigations		Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley Breaks the News		Investigations
sports	405	417	22	net	NFL Football	Sportsnet Connected		World Combat	World Combat League		World Combat League		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN	Football Night in America		(8:15) NFL Football New York Giants at Dallas Cowboys. From Texas Stadium in Irving, Texas.						
family	551	542	25	YTV	Charlie Brown	Flintstone Xms	A Flintstone Christmas		(9:15) ALF	(9:45) ALF	(10:15) Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	George-Jungle	Fat Albert	Scooby-Doo	Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	*A Scanner Darkly* ★★★ (2006, Action)		
	556	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Han. Montana	*Babes in Toyland* ★★ (1997, Musical)			*Dungeons & Dragons* ★	
cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami "Three-Way"		CSI: Miami "Rush"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami
	575	583	38	CMT	Chevy Cross Canada Countdown				Cheerleaders	Cheerleaders	Tara Oram's Christmas Carol		Greatest
	616	521	39	SHO	The Guard (HDTV)		*The Christmas Choir* (2008, Drama) Jason Gedrick.				*Lady in the Water* ★★ (2006, Fantasy)		
	294	529	47	TBS	(6) *Excess Baggage* (1997)		*Sliding Doors* ★★ (1998, Romance-Comedy), John Hannah				*Sliding Doors* ★★ (1998, Romance-Comedy)		
	581	566	52	MTV	Made Hip hop dancer.		Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	MTV Live
	603	561	56	FOOD	Jamie at Home	Exotic	Challenge		Iron Chef America		Jamie at Home Christmas Spe		Chef School
	300	601	301	M1	*Golden Comp.*	*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* ★★★ (2007, Fantasy)					Dexter (N)		*Love Bleeding*



Rumoured role

Tori Spelling is reportedly in talks again to appear on 90210. Although nothing is official, Spelling's Donna Martin character may arrive for a couple of episodes in the spring, possibly for one of the shows that Jason Priestley will direct. **TVGUIDE.COM**

Television

What's Oprah's weight got to do with it?

IntelleVision

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

SOMETIMES AN ÉCLAIR IS JUST AN ÉCLAIR: There's a theory making the rounds that the current economic downturn is a good thing in disguise — that being shocked out of the complacent habits of prosperity and the social status quo is the ultimate form of "creative destruction," burning away out-of-date ideas and habits and forcing us to look at the world in a whole new way.

Sometimes, however, it's just an invitation for increasingly tenuous and absurd lunges at social diagnosis, such as a piece in Tina Brown's Daily Beast current affairs web magazine this week by writer and comic Jessi Klein. The subject at hand is Oprah Winfrey's recent weight gain, the subject of an apparently anguished confession in the recent issue of Winfrey's O magazine, which Klein sees as a physical reflection of the subprime mortgage meltdown and credit crunch behind our current economic insecurity.

"Oprah concludes that her latest chub-battle has led her to adjust her weight objective," Klein writes. "She's no longer striving to be thin, she says, but simply to balance health with giving herself 'the love and care' she needs. So 2009 finds Oprah and the rest of the country adjusting to a new resolve. None of us, no matter what the size of our wallets, can be perfect. But when we waver from our budgets, we'll be downsizing our indulgences. For Oprah, that might mean a cookie instead of a whole cake; for the rest of us, perhaps a movie instead of an Escalade."

It's at times like this that the tantalizing lure of metaphor — for writers especially — looks like epistemological crack, cheap, addictive and damaging. Oprah's weight gain is to be understood as one woman's caloric interpretation of social insecurity seeking solace in materialism; it's a sophomoric equation at best, one best discarded with undergrad English Lit essays.

It's hard to compare the extra time Oprah might have spent at the snack table backstage with credit card debt and defaulted mortgages; Oprah paid for the food she's eaten, after all, and her decision to supersize herself by 40 lbs. wasn't facilitated by governments and banks underwriting fatty foods, and won't end in seizure and public auction of her waistline.

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Klein seems to think that the cure for our widespread economic bingeing should be the prohibition of Escalades and "cashmere-iPoddy things that should have been off limits," and quotes Oprah's assessment that her overindulgence was "a love issue." Whatever imprudence might have motivated so much bad debt, love probably had less to do with it than woeful incomprehension of the concept of interest and the seriousness of the due date at the top of a bill.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

GlobalStyle

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DeGeneres takes turn as a make-up model

You think of Ellen DeGeneres as being many things — a talk show host, a comedian, a good dancer — but cosmetics model probably isn't one of them.

That all changes with new CoverGirl ads that begin airing this month on the beauty brand's website and then a TV campaign next month.

The campaign puts DeGeneres, 50, known for laughs more than her looks, in the same category as makeup spokesmodels Christie Brinkley, Molly Sims, Tyra Banks and Drew Barrymore.

But it also includes Queen Latifah and Olympic gymnasts and regular women who aren't necessarily svelte, making DeGeneres part of recent trend in the beauty industry to put the spotlight on women who don't always fit the profile of a conventional feminine ideal.

DeGeneres agrees that she wasn't an obvious choice. "I really had to think about this. I only do things that make sense for me — I don't want to put my name on something that's not part of my life," she says. "I actually don't want to look younger. I think that's bad too. . . . I hate to see photos of myself that are airbrushed," she said.

Ellen DeGeneres.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Christmas specials come out

A Muppets Christmas: **Letters To Santa**

Air date: Dec. 17
Network: CTV

Whoopi Goldberg, Uma Thurman, Richard Griffiths and Jane Krakowski keep up the Muppets tradition of idiosyncratic guest choices on the latest holiday special from the people who brought you Peter Sellers singing Cigarettes, Whisky And Wild, Wild Women on the Muppet Show.

Rick's TV**Picks**

The Best Of The Hills **Parodies**

Air date: Saturday
Network: MTV

Making fun of The Hills is actually more fun than watching the thing, a fact that gets celebrated with this hour-long special collecting Hills take-offs — there are obviously more than enough.

Mall **Santas**

Air date: Dec. 18
Network: Global

It's not Miracle on 34th Street, but it's not Bad Santa, either. The world of the Mall Santa gets explored with three pro Santas whose lives might not exactly be Christmas every day.

RICK MCGINNIS/METRO CANADA

PLEASE CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR SHOWS' AIR TIMES.

the hot ticket

by enza supermodel

Enza the supermodel brings Metro readers the weekly scoop on Toronto's hottest parties and events.

If you would you like your event featured in the hot ticket, e-mail: enza.supermodel.anderson@gmail.com

ABOVE, LEFT: BMO branch manager Julia Chung. **RIGHT:** Dinner guests Tatyana and Radhicka Tinnerman.

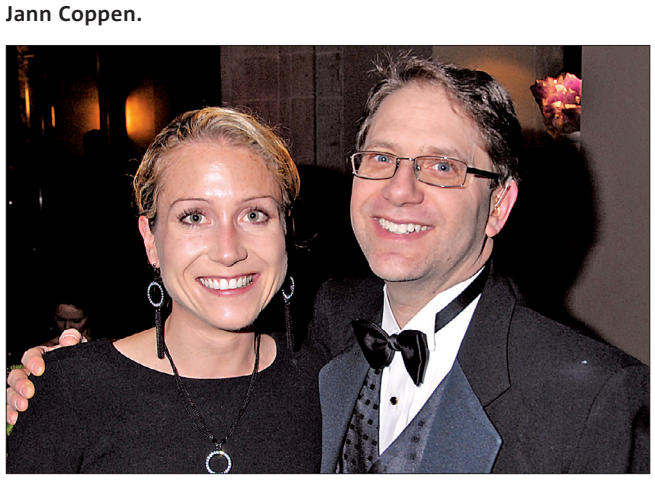
ABOVE: Hairstylist to the stars Paul Venoit with millionaire heiress and politician Belinda Stronach.

LEFT: Dinner guest Melanie Robert

HAUTE CUISINE WAS the appetite of the night as Yorkville shops, from Escada to Tiffany, were transformed into fine dining rooms for CANFAR's (Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research) annual fundraising dinner — Bloor Street Entertains. Then it was off to the ROM where 1,500-plus people gathered for after-party festivities.

ABOVE: Escada Canada president and CEO Joe Caporrella with wife Mirella.

ABOVE: From left, financial adviser Gavin Clark, BMO senior corporate manager Nada Ristich and The Idea Shop partner Jann Coppen.



ABOVE: The Globe and Mail reporter Tara Perkins with editor-in-chief Ed Greenspon.

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Cinnamon Hearts burlesque group
Cinnamon Hearts Through Time, about four girls travelling through time and space to learn the art of shimmying and shaking. Fri., doors 8 p.m. ($10 adv at Come as You Are/ $12 at door). Goodhandy's, 120 Church St. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Going Out

It's The Nutcracker season

Five ways to enjoy Tchaikovsky's classic ballet in the city

Ballet Jörgen

PREMIERED: 2008
CHOREOGRAPHY BY: Bengt Jörgen
STATS: Up to 35 performers; more than 100 costumes
SPECIAL ATTRACTION: A truly Canadian Nutcracker, this production was inspired by Group of Seven paintings at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection. Franklin Carmichael's Church and Houses at Bisset established the setting for Clara (a young immigrant) and Eric and their family's Christmas party in 1912 at Algonquin Park. The Arabian dancers have become loons; the Russians are bears; the Spanish are raccoons; and the Chinese have become dragonflies. Using fur, lace and trinkets, designer Sue LePage also created costumes for trillium flowers, birches, beavers, squirrels and snowflakes.
WHAT'S NEW: Everything. Jörgen wanted a Nutcracker relevant to the Canadian communities it visits. At each stop, local children will join the cast.
SEE IT IF: You've always thought The Nutcracker was missing porcupines and maple syrup.
DATES: Thursday, Dec. 18 at 12 p.m., Friday, Dec. 19 at 12 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 20 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at The Rose Theatre in Brampton. For dates and times in Kingston, Kitchener and Markham, go to *balletjorgen.ca*
TICKETS: At the Rose Theatre, $7.50 and up. Call 905-793-5061

National Ballet of Canada

PREMIERED: 1995
CHOREOGRAPHY BY: James Kudelka
STATS: 174 performers (50 dancers, 40 students, 60 musicians, 24 singers); 1,170 National Ballet School students have performed in the show.
SPECIAL ATTRACTION: Generally regarded as the most spectacular Nutcracker anywhere, this production has bears on pointe and rollerblades, a giant Fabergé egg containing the Sugar Plum Fairy, a horse that many take for real, rotating beds with chimneys and a huge cast of children, including the cutest ensemble of little lambs you've ever laid eyes on.
WHAT'S NEW: This is a real Toronto Nutcracker. The cast of children is more diverse than ever, hailing originally from Cuba, Thailand, Indonesia, Russia, Israel and the U.S. Grown-ups debuting in key roles include Elena Lobsanova doing the Snow Queen. She performed Marie in 1997 and 1998 when she was a student at NBS. Jonathan Renna and Noah Long will debut in the captivating role of Uncle Nikolai.
SEE IT IF: You haven't already done so.
DATES: Currently at 2 and 7 p.m. in the Four Seasons Centre until Dec. 28
TICKETS: $33 to $117 at 416-345-9686 or *thenutcracker.ca*

ANDREW OXENHAM
Preston McBain, Colleen McGuckin and Cristina Tucciarone star in Ballet Jörgen's Canadian rendition of The Nutcracker.

Xing Dance Theatre

PREMIERED: 1994
CHOREOGRAPHY: Xing Bang Fu
STATS: 52 performers (22 company members, 14 children from Jian Dan Ballet School and 16 students from Cardinal Carter Academy for the Performing Arts)
SPECIAL ATTRACTION: When he made his Nutcracker, Xing Bang Fu wanted to pay tribute to the power of the human imagination, "Which children have in abundance." It's a very simple, but colourful and affordable show for the whole family. There are teenagers in the cast who have been dancing in this Nutcracker since they were preschoolers. This year, principal dancer Simone Sylvain Lalonde, who has performed the Nutcracker/Prince every year for 15 years, is doing his last turn in the role.
WHAT'S NEW: Originally staged in the College St. United Church, the show moves for the first time to the Fleck Dance Theatre. Agatha Mirosz debuts in the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy. School of Toronto Dance Theatre graduates Byron Beckford, Jelani Douglas, Sze-Yang Lam and Reynald Jean-Pierre will also perform in a show that is bigger, brighter and technically more advanced than ever.
SEE IT IF: You've ever wondered how a Chinese choreographer would interpret the Nutcracker using ballet and modern dance technique.
DATES: Dec. 13 at 7:30 and Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. in the Fleck Dance Theatre
TICKETS: $28 to $38 at 416-973-4000, *harbourfrontcentre.com*

Pia Bouman School

PREMIERED: 1985
CHOREOGRAPHY BY: Pia Bouman
STATS: 124 performers, more than 1,000 props and costumes, 240 roles
SPECIAL ATTRACTION: A community-based Nutcracker, a local politician is often enlisted to make a cameo appearance. Mayor David Miller was a popular guest artist but hasn't been back since the year he and Toronto Star feature writer Kenneth Kidd, recruited as stretcher-bearers, dropped the Mouse King on the stage.
WHAT'S NEW: Each year Bouman re-choreographs her Nutcracker.
SEE IT IF: You believe Christmas is for kids.
DATES: Dec. 18 to Dec. 21 in Humberside Collegiate Institute, 280 Quebec Ave.
TICKETS: Adults $15 to $40; children and students $10 to $35 at 416-532-8705 or *piaboumanschool.org*

Canadian Ballet Theatre

PREMIERED: 1998
CHOREOGRAPHY: Vasily Vainonen
STATS: About 85 performers, 170 costumes
SPECIAL ATTRACTION: Of all of The Nutcrackers, this one is closest to the original 1892 Russian production. Nadia Veselova Tencer's staging follows The Nutcracker performed by the Kirov Ballet in the 1950s. Nadia and Solomon Tencer invite up-and-coming ballet stars to perform lead roles.
WHAT'S NEW: Two promising students, Victoria Harding and Alys Shee, will alternate in the role of Clara. Lead adult roles will be performed by St. Petersburg dancer Alina Somova; Anton Korsakov, a past winner of the Helsinki International Ballet Competition; and American Ballet Theatre dancer Zhong-Jing Fang, a winner of the Prix de Lausanne in 2000.
SEE IT IF: You're a traditionalist.
DATES: Dec. 20 and 21 at the Winter Garden Theatre, 189 Yonge St.
TICKETS: $60 and $70 at Ticketmaster

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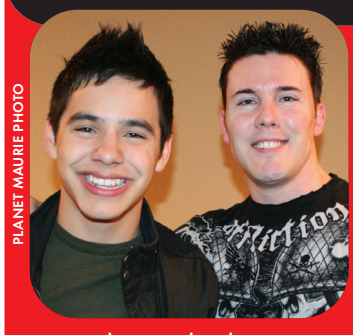
DAVID ARCHULETA EXCLUSIVLY ON THE CANADIAN TOP 20

PLANET MAURIE PHOTO
Don't miss David Archuleta this weekend in conversation with Jimmy T (pictured together) – exclusively on the Canadian Top 20 countdown, the hottest countdown in Canada! ONLY The Canadian Top 20 can play you his new single "Little Too Not Over You" off his new self titled CD.
The Canadian Top 20 is heard every weekend on Virgin Radio 999, Toronto.
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Witness feats of the mind at the Paranormal Show
The Paranormal Show features feats of the mind and a full-blown séance with Vladimir Eisengrimm. Friday at 9 p.m. and again Dec. 19 and 20 ($40 at 416-597-0227). Campbell House Museum, 160 Queen St. W. theparanormalshow.net. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Going Out

Good grief, C.B. – Dog Sees God

Cast from Degrassi High: The Next Generation star in satire based on Peanuts

Did you know Charlie Brown went to Degrassi High when he grew up?

That's the impression you may get when a show called Dog Sees God opens in March.

Producer Michael Rubinoff is really playing the Degrassi card by casting four of the leads in his production with alumni from the wildly popular show Degrassi: The Next Generation: Jake Epstein, Adamo Ruggiero, Mike Lobel and Paula Brancati.

Loosely inspired by the iconic comic strip Peanuts, the free-wheeling satire was a big hit with New York audiences from the moment it premiered at the New York Fringe in 2004 through its opening off-Broadway the following year.

"It's way past meta and all the way out the other side into surreal. The gang from Peanuts has had its identities shaken up in the name of good dirty fun."

A guy known as C.B. has to cope with issues of mortality once his beloved dog is put down after killing his pet bird. (Snoopy fans, you're out of luck.) In his search for answers, he exchanges comic insights with carefully disguised figures like Beethoven, the classical-music freak facing recently discovered issues of childhood sexual abuse; Van, the kid who once clutched a blanket and now tokes a constant doobie; and Van's sister, now a pyromaniac placed in a padded cell after she set

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

Actors from Degrassi: The Next Generation Adamo Ruggiero, left, Jake Epstein, Paula Brancati and Mike Lobel star in Dog Sees God, which opens in March at Six Degrees on Yonge Street.

The Little Red-Haired Girl's hair on fire.

Get the picture? It's way past meta and all the way out the other side into surreal. The gang from Peanuts has had its identities shaken up in the name of good dirty fun and names changed in the interests of avoiding a copyright infringement lawsuit.

"C.B.'s super cute sister is now a hateful goth; Peppermint Patty now parties so hard she could give lessons to the Lohan girl."

Who else surfaces from the past? C.B.'s super cute sister is now a hateful goth; Peppermint Patty now parties so hard she could give lessons to the Lohan girl; and the Artist Formerly Known as Pig-Pen is now a homophobic clean freak named Matt who puts Purell everywhere (and I mean everywhere!).

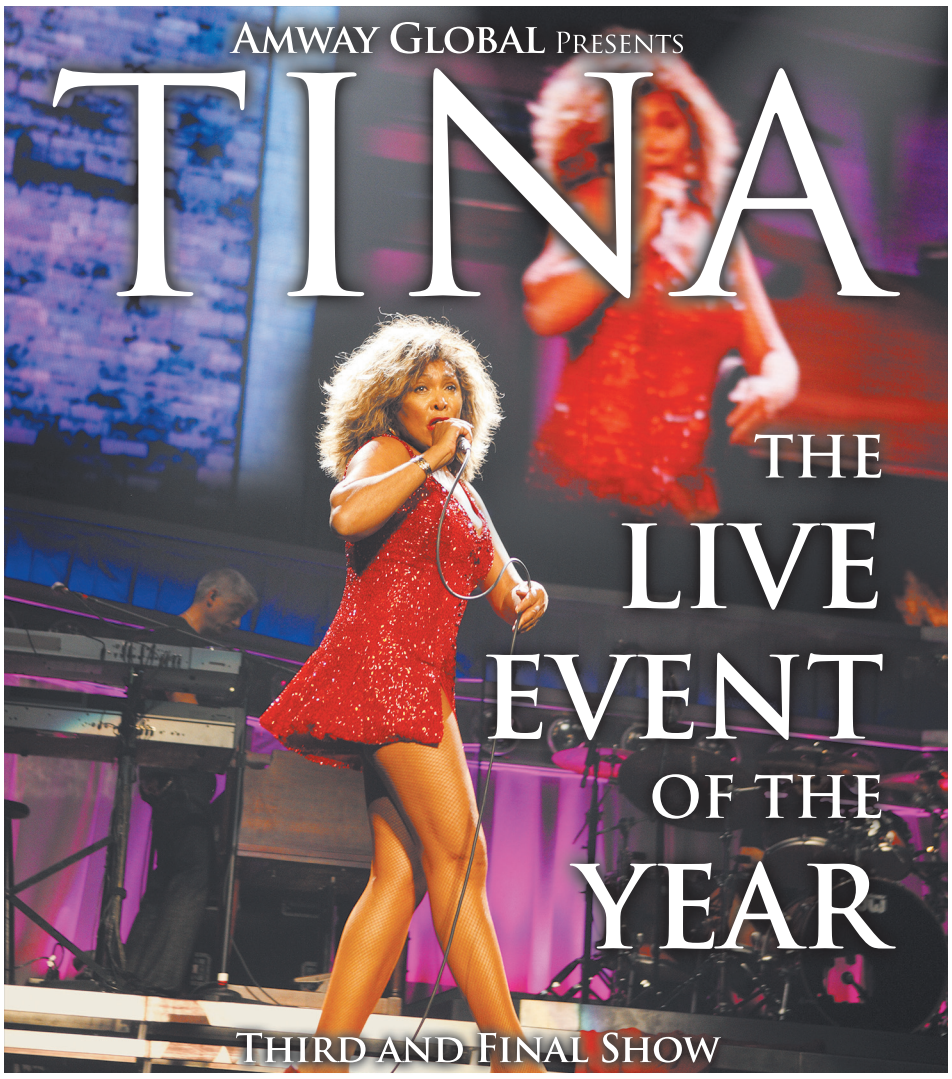
The original New York production got a jolt of welcome media hype from the presence of Buffy The Vampire Slayer regular Eliza Dushku in the cast, but that's nothing compared with the Degrassi tsunami that Rubinoff is bringing to the Toronto production.

The show is set to open for a strictly limited four-week run on March 13 at Six Degrees, 2335 Yonge St.

The female audience members at Ross Petty's Cinderella, who have been swooning over Epstein as Prince Charming, will probably be the first in line to buy tickets.

Maybe they should change the name to You're A Hot Dude, Charlie Brown.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



SK8 the night away

DJ SK8 Nights at Harbourfront Centre's outdoor rink has a Francodelicious dance party with DJs Mimi la Twisteuse and SOJU, Fri. 8 p.m. and CBC Radio 3 on Ice live broadcast Sat. at 6 p.m. Free at 235 Queens Quay W. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Heath Ledger

Late actor Heath Ledger is garnering attention again for his work as the Joker in The Dark Knight, fresh out on DVD. He's been posthumously named best actor by the Australian Film Institute and best supporting actor by the Washington D.C. Area Film Critics Association.

2 Hollywood baby boom

The result of spring fever, perhaps? A bevy of celebrities announced new arrivals this week: Eric Mabius (boy), America's Next Top Model judge Nigel Barker (girl), Amy Jo Johnson (girl) and Jonny Lee Miller (boy).

3 Grey's Anatomy

The medical show has spawned off-set drama, with Brooke Smith, who played Dr. Erica Hahn, saying there are no hard feelings after being booted off the show, and now rumours that T.R. Knight is looking to leave.

4 The cape jacket

Stars like singer Kylie Minogue and actress Leighton Meester are wrapping up in sleeveless, hooded jackets, with beige and blue being the colours of choice, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The cape combines the warmth of a cardigan with the smart silhouette of a jacket.

5 Elisha Cuthbert

Actress Elisha Cuthbert has so far taken the high road by remaining mum on comments made by her ex, Dallas Stars Sean Avery. He referred to Cuthbert as "my sloppy seconds" in a TV interview while poking fun at rival and Cuthbert's current flame, Dion Phaneuf.

6 Kate Winslet

Oscar-nominated actress Kate Winslet is back on the big screen to show off her acting chops in The Reader and Revolutionary Road.

7 New Year's Eve

No plans? Head to New York to see the Jonas Brothers, Taylor Swift and Lionel Richie ring in 2009 on Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve.

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Festive Foodies Roots Walk in Kensington
Kensington Festive Foodies Roots Walk: Festival of Lights takes in a variety of holiday festivals. Saturday, 9:30 a.m. and again Dec. 20 ($43/$38.50/$27.50 including food and beverage). Info/registration at 416-923-6813. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mix of Six

HOT & HAPPENING WEEKEND EVENTS AROUND THE CITY
For more great events around the city, visit: **metronews.ca/entertainment**

The Nature of Diamonds
Until March 22
Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park; adults: $20; seniors and students with ID: $17; kids 4-14: $14.

Scrooge
Dec. 13, 10 a.m., noon
Dec. 14, 10 a.m.
Fox Theatre, 2236 Queen St. E.
Price: $10 for kids, $15 for adults.

Holiday Marketplace 2008
Dec. 12, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
Dec. 13-14, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
The 401 Richmond Building, 401 Richmond St. W.
Shop for gifts.

Naughty or Nice Christmas party
Dec. 12, 8-11 p.m.
Tryst Nightclub, 82 Peter St.
Fast Life hosts its annual Christmas party. Price: $25 in advance, fastlife.ca

Live Once Pole Dance and Fitness Studio holiday open house
Dec. 12, 7:30-10 p.m.
6-100 Nipissing Rd., Milton

The Gingerbread Cookie Factory at Sherway Gardens
Dec. 12-13, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sherway Gardens, 25 The West Mall

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Lynden Park Mall
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Taylor Hanson's wife gives birth to a son
Taylor Hanson, the middle brother of the rock trio Hanson, and his wife Natalie welcomed a son, Viggo Moriah, on Tuesday in Tulsa, Okla. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Paltrow working on marriage

RELATIONSHIPS Gwyneth Paltrow will snub Christmas in her native America for the sake of her marriage to Coldplay rocker Chris Martin, according to reports.

Speculation about the state of their relationship mounted after Martin was pictured leaving the family's London home alone on Friday, the day of their fifth wedding anniversary.

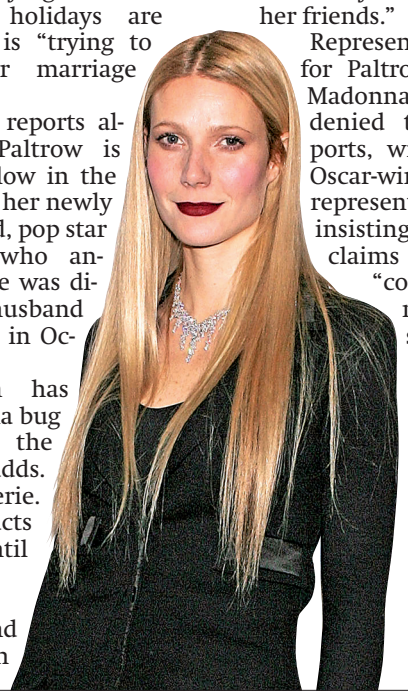
But the actress is reportedly desperate to make her marriage work, and is sticking by her husband in London rather than spending the holidays with her family in the U.S.

"Gwyneth says she's totally fine. She's used the phrase 'perfectly happy' a bunch of times, and refuses to read any of the tabloid tales to the contrary," a source tells the New York Daily News.

The insider insists Paltrow is "staying overseas until the holidays are over," and is "trying to make their marriage better."

However, reports also allege Paltrow is keen to follow in the footsteps of her newly single friend, pop star Madonna, who announced she was divorcing husband Guy Ritchie in October.

"Gwyneth has the Madonna bug ... bad," the source adds. "It's eerie. Gwyneth acts normally until Madonna comes around, and then Gwyn is all about Madonna, all the time. Madge has even introduced Gwyneth to all her friends."



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Representatives for Paltrow and Madonna both denied the reports, with the Oscar-winner's representative insisting the claims were "complete nonsense."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Poking fun at media

PEOPLE Jennifer Aniston has poked fun at the constant media interest in her relationship with ex-husband Brad Pitt and his partner Angelina Jolie, likening the trio to an "insane Bermuda triangle," imdb.com reports.

Speculation surrounding the actress' supposed rivalry with Jolie reached boiling point following Aniston's remarks to U.S. Vogue magazine in October, in which she branded Jolie "uncool."

The comments came after Jolie admitted she had fallen in love with Pitt while making 2005's Mr. and Mrs. Smith — when he was still married to Aniston.

But in a new interview with America's GQ magazine, in which Aniston poses naked apart from a men's tie, the star admits she finds the whole situation amusing.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Drew linked to Jason Segel

DATING Drew Barrymore has sparked reports she's dating funnyman Jason Segel, five months after ending her year-long romance with actor Justin Long, imdb.com reports.

The actress split from Long in July and has most recently been linked to Gossip Girl star Ed Westwick. But Barrymore has reportedly moved on again with the How I Met Your Mother star Segel, after the pair were allegedly spotted getting cosy at Los Angeles' Chateau Marmont on Nov. 28.

"Drew was all over Jason, rubbing him and kissing his face. He was on cloud nine," a source tells Star magazine.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Adams details proposal

MARRIAGE Actress Amy Adams came close to sabotaging her fiance's marriage proposal, because she was in a bad mood, imdb.com reports.

Adams announced her engagement to her artist boyfriend of six years, Darren Le Gallo, back in July. But she didn't reveal how an uncharacteristic bout of diva behaviour almost ruined the whole occasion.

"He had something big and dramatic planned," she says. "He was going to take me out to a really nice dinner and then take me to the top of the Empire State Building. He's scared of heights so he thought that would be significant. But I completely ruined it by saying I wanted to go see a play instead of going to dinner ... He proposed to me in Central Park in a carriage."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Pitt admits early love with Jolie

REALTIONSHIPS Even though we all assumed it was true, Brad Pitt openly admits in the new issue of Rolling Stone that he "fell in love" with Angelina Jolie while he was still with Jennifer Aniston, popeater.com reports.

It's the same reason Mr. & Mrs. Smith tops as his favourite movie of all time, he said. "(Angelina) is not only the woman I love, but one of the people on this planet who I have the greatest respect for. I think she's as honorable as anyone I've ever met."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jessica wants wedding?

FAMILY Jessica Simpson reportedly wants to "get married in Texas in the summer and get pregnant soon after," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer, who is dating football star Tony Romo, is said to be desperate to tie the knot and start her family, after seeing her younger sister Ashlee give birth to her own son Bronx Mowgli last month.

"Jessica recently sat Tony down for a baby talk," a friend of Jessica's told In Touch Weekly magazine.

"Unlike Ashlee, Jessica doesn't want to get pregnant and then get married. She's a little more traditional, so she'd like to marry Tony first and then get pregnant, ideally on their honeymoon. She wants to get engaged in early 2009, married in Texas in the summer and get pregnant soon after."

It was recently revealed Jessica is "convinced" Dallas Cowboys star Romo is going to propose to her over Christmas.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cate carries nuptial regret

PEOPLE Cate Blanchett regrets her wedding day, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress, who married playwright Andrew Upton 11 years ago, would love to relive the special day because she has no photographs to remember it by.

"The only moment of my life I would possibly recapture is getting remarried again because we didn't take any photographs," Blanchett says. "We didn't have any money at the time and we couldn't afford a photographer."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tyler dating Bing: report

DATING Actress Liv Tyler has found love with model/actress Elizabeth Hurley's multi-millionaire ex-boyfriend Steve Bing, according to tabloid reports.

Tyler, 31 who has been single since splitting with husband Royston Langdon earlier this year, was reportedly spotted enjoying a romantic meal with movie producer Bing in Los Angeles on Nov. 30, imdb.com reports.

According to Star magazine, Bing — the father of Hurley's six-year-old son Damian — has been pursuing Tyler for some time.

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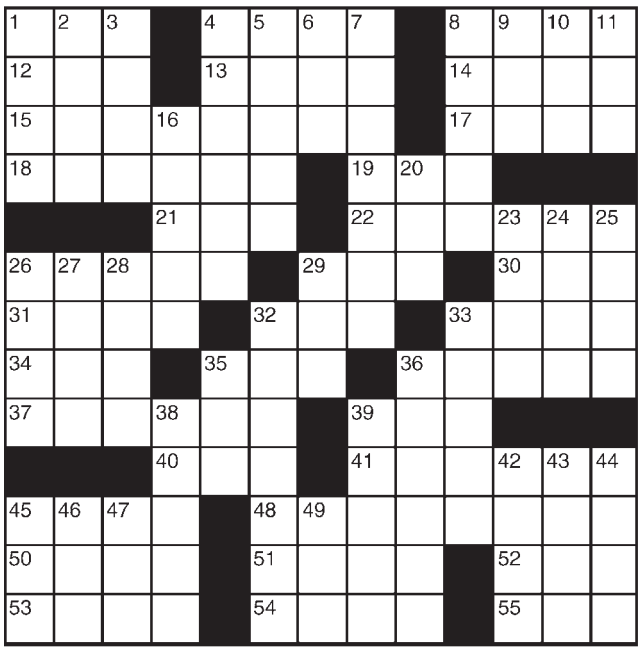

Crossword across

1 Standard score
4 Medicos
8 Benefit
12 A mean Amin
13 Maze goal
14 Stop up
15 Nickname for football's George Halas
17 Hodgepodge
18 High-IQ sort
19 Wall St. debut
21 Caviar base
22 Hit repeatedly
26 Sacrifice site
29 Shriner's chapeau
30 Before
31 U.K. conservative
32 Seafood selection
33 Soft cheese
34 Harem room
35 Grow
36 Ship of the desert
37 Apple variety
39 Book-spine abbr.
40 Literary collection
41 Fleet
45 Cereal choice
48 Litter member
50 Indonesian island
51 Cupid's alias
52 2-Down's companion
53 Stylish
54 Paddock parent
55 Homer's neighbor Flanders

Crossword down

1 Knight's backup
2 Leading man?
3 Philbin co-host
4 Credit card user
5 Daisy variety
6 U.S. spy org.
7 Like some shirts
8 Ice cream utensil
9 Every iota
10 Japanese pond fish
11 Diva's problem
16 Splendid setup
20 Dispensable candy
23 Salon request
24 Ontario's neighbor
25 Stagger
26 Having surmounted
27 California city
28 Snare
29 A clever person
32 Hors d'oeuvres
33 Mild
35 Victory
36 Bit part in a whodunit
38 "War of the Worlds" effect
39 Smoke or fog
42 Mideast gulf
43 Peace symbol
44 On in years
45 English channel?
46 "Go, team!"
47 "The Greatest"
49 Spoon-bender Geller

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

			1		5			
	5						7	
7	1	2				5	8	3
		8	5		2	9		
4								6
		3	6		7	4		
8	4	6				2	9	1
	9						5	
			8		9			

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

H	E	L	D	■	S	A	L	T	■	P	R	O
O	B	O	E	■	O	B	E	Y	■	O	I	L
P	O	R	C	E	L	A	I	N	■	R	D	A
I	N	D	I	G	O	■	■	A	S	P	E	N
■	■	■	D	O	■	P	I	N	T	O	■	■
D	O	P	E	■	S	O	B	■	Y	I	P	S
O	N	O	■	■	O	R	E	■	■	S	O	P
G	E	R	M	■	A	C	T	■	Z	E	T	A
■	■	R	A	L	P	H	■	A	E	■	■	■
C	H	I	C	O	■	■	A	R	R	E	S	T
R	I	D	■	P	O	R	T	F	O	L	I	O
E	R	G	■	E	C	H	O	■	E	B	B	S
W	E	E	■	S	T	O	P	■	S	A	S	S

2	3	4	1	8	7	5	9	6
6	7	1	5	2	9	3	8	4
5	9	8	6	4	3	1	2	7
7	4	3	2	5	1	8	6	9
1	2	9	8	7	6	4	5	3
8	6	5	9	3	4	2	7	1
3	1	2	7	6	8	9	4	5
9	8	7	4	1	5	6	3	2
4	5	6	3	9	2	7	1	8

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13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Tuna Provençale on a Baguette

INGREDIENTS:
2 large tomatoes, peeled and chopped
5 black olives (not oil-packed), pitted and finely chopped
1 baguette, about 24 in. (60 cm) long
2 tbsp (25 mL) extra virgin olive oil
1 large onion
1 large green pepper
2 cans (170 g) tuna in water, drained
2 tbsp (25 mL) white wine vinegar
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped

METHOD:
1. Mix tomatoes and olives in a medium bowl, and then let stand until juicy, about 15 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, cut baguette almost in half lengthwise (do not slice completely through). Open baguette like a book, being careful not to separate bread. Pull out about 1/2 cup (125 mL) of the soft centre with your hands. Using 1/2 tbsp (7 mL) oil, brush cut sides of the bread. Then spread on tomato mixture and any juices that have collected in the bowl.
3. Cut onion in half through stem end, then cut crosswise into thin semicircles. Cut pepper in half, then crosswise into thin semicircles. Layer onion, green pepper and tuna over tomato mixture. Whisk vinegar, garlic and remaining oil in a small bowl. Drizzle over tuna.
4. Wrap stuffed baguette tightly in plastic wrap. Weigh down with a heavy frying pan and let stand at room temperature until the ingredients have soaked into bread, 30 minutes. Cut diagonally into 4 equal pieces before serving.

SERVES 4

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For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A trustworthy person has remarkable news. A disturbance can produce a warning. You'll want to escape from a weird dilemma.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Reorganize a sluggish system right away. A threat will jog somebody's memory. You can get ahead by leaving a sad place.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
An amiable manner influences a realist. Don't count your blessings in public. You shouldn't push optimism to a cynical person.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A prosperous guy needs medical attention. Shabbiness will not be acceptable to a lady. Don't be a fool when crossing a street.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Check your documents carefully. A magnificent man takes the other side in a conflict. Difficulties arise when you are too aggressive.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Time passes slowly while awaiting a disclosure. A decent man gives a warning about unreliability. An alarmist rouses the neighbourhood.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A disagreement about benefits will lead to teasing. A friend will happily agree to make changes. A separation leads to a breakthrough.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Show your support when a relationship begins. An eccentric person is making a big mistake. A friend causes a hullabaloo.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Some people will be switching partners. By not worrying, you can correct a problem. Yield to the facts, no matter what happens.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A lenient person will be receptive. A disturbing tempest threatens to interfere with funds. It's wiser not to complain about hostility.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A lenient person will be receptive. A disturbing tempest threatens to interfere with funds. It's wiser not to complain about hostility.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
An ill friend will discuss his personal agony. Your lack of concern is the point of a story. Keep your side of a bargain.

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